SMART WAYS LEBANON BY THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE

LAU Louis Cardahi Foundation — THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE — Cultural route of the Council of Europe / Itinéraire culturel du Conseil de l'Europe

LAU-Louis Cardahi Foundation

Promotes Phoenicians' Route Smart Ways – Lebanon

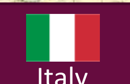
Exploration of Smart Ways Lebanon – network of historical cities

Presented by Dr. Rachid Chamoun, Director, LAU-Louis Cardahi Foundation

Honorary President of the Confederation of The Phoenicians' Route

http://fenici.net/en/contact-2/   **http://lcf.lau.edu.lb/contact/**


Albania Belgium


Italy


Spain


France


Lebanon


Tunisia Greece


Croatia


Malta


Cyprus


Governorate of Jericho








SMART WAYS LEBANON BY THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE

Lebanon's history has been shaped by its strategic location at the crossroads of culture between the East and the West. Homeland of the Canaanites/Phoenicians, the inventors of the alphabet, their civilization thrived on the east coast of the Mediterranean. The country has witnessed the rise and fall of multiple civilizations whose mark can be felt today in Lebanon's rich cultural heritage.

Canaanites & Amorites: 2300 BC,
Egyptians-Hittites: 1350 BC,
Phoenicians 1100 BC,
Assyrians-Babylonian Empire: 877 BC,
Persian Empire: 539 BC,
Roman Empire: 64 BC,

Eastern Roman or Byzantine Empire: 395,
The Islamic World: 635,
The Umayyad: 661,
The Abbasids: 750,
The Rein of the Fatimids: 969,
The Seljuks and the First Crusades: 1090,

Latin Crusader States: 1150,
The Mameluke States 1291,
The Ottoman Empire1516,
The French Mandate 1920,
The Independent State, 1943



Map of the Phoenicians' Route

The Phoenicians' Route refers to the connection of the major nautical routes, which, since the twelfth century BC were used by the Phoenicians as essential routes for trade and cultural communication in the Mediterranean. The confederation of the Phoenicians' Route encompasses over 100 associations and partners to include Italy, Spain, France, Lebanon, Tunisia, Greece, Croatia, Malta, Cyprus, Portugal and the Governorate of Jericho in Palestine.

Exploration of Smart Ways Lebanon – Network of Historical Cities


Banner


Albania

Belgium

Italy

Spain

France

Lebanon

Tunisia

Greece

Croatia

Malta

Cyprus

Governorate of Jericho



Louis Cardahi Foundation



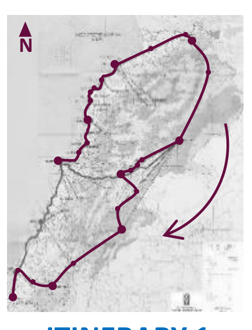








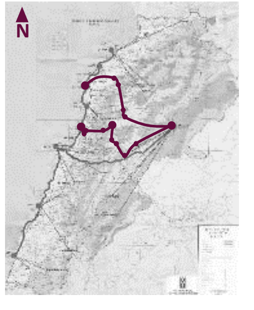
PHOENICIANS' ROUTE - SMART WAYS - LEBANESE ITINIRARY



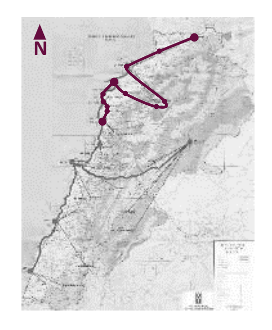
ITINERARY 1
Coastal Line Route Towards North, the Interior and South



ITINERARY 2
Coastal Line Route Towards South, the Interior and North



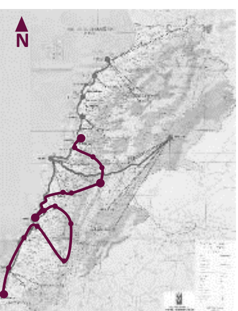
ITINERARY 3
Coast, Interior, and Back to the Coast Route



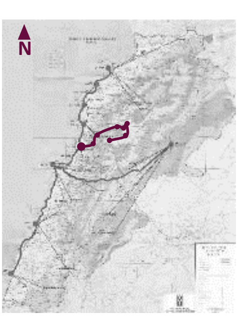
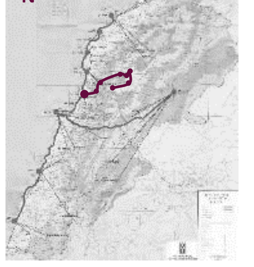
ITINERARY 4
Coast Towards the Mountains then North Route



ITINERARY 5
Coast to Interior



ITINERARY 6
Coast, interior, coast, interior, and ending on the coast

ITINERARY 7
Jabal Moussa Route

Instructions:

- Click on the **blue text** in order to take you to the desired slide (itinerary – details of a specific temple), poster of a specific city, webpage link, panoramic views, videos, google maps, etc…
- Click on **the map of Lebanon** to take you back to this slide, where the options of several itineraries are shown.

Recommendation:

- Watch the video ***"Rise Above Lebanon"*** to get a general picture of Lebanon before starting the Lebanese itinerary.

Itinerary	Details
ITINERARY 1	**DAY 1:** Beirut – Nahr El-Kalb – Jounieh – Jbeil **DAY 2:** Batroun – Hamat – El-Heri – Anfeh – Tripoli **DAY 3:** Arqa – Menjez – Al-Qoubaiyat **DAY 4:** Hermel/Beqaa Valley – Baalbek **DAY 5:** Niha – Ferzoul – Zahle – Chtaura **DAY 6:** Anjar – Kamid Al-Lawz – Mount Hermon/Rashaya Al-Wadi **DAY 7:** Arnoun – Tebnine **DAY 8:** Qana – Tyre – Umm Al-Amad *(upon availability)*
ITINERARY 2	**DAY 1:** Beirut – Echmoun – Sidon – Maghdouche – Sarafand – Tyre **DAY 2:** Umm Al-Amad *(upon availability)* – Qana – Tebnine **DAY 3:** Arnoun – Mount Hermon/Rashaya Al-Wadi **DAY 4:** Kamid Al-Lawz – Anjar – Chtaura **DAY 5:** Zahle – Ferzoul – Niha – Baalbek **DAY 6:** Hermel/Beqaa Valley – Al-Qoubaiyat **DAY 7:** Menjez – Arqa – Tripoli
ITINERARY 3	**DAY 1:** Batroun – Ain Akrine – Bziza – Douma **DAY 2:** Souaneh – Yanouh – Aalita – Afqa – Baalbek **DAY 3:** Niha – Zahle **DAY 4:** Sannine – Baskinta – Faqra **DAY 5:** Faitroun – Harissa – Bkerki – Jounieh
ITINERARY 4	**DAY 1:** Jbeil – Mebaaj Grotto – Smar Jbeil – Batroun – Hamat – Anfeh **DAY 2:** Amioun – Bcharri – Wadi Qadisha **DAY 3:** Tripoli – Arqa – Menjez
ITINERARY 5	Jbeil – Adonis Valley – Yanouh – Afqa – Baalbek *(between May and October)*
ITINERARY 6	**DAY 1:** Jounieh – Nahr El-Kalb – Mtein – Hammana – Barouk **DAY 2:** Beiteddine – Deir El-Qamar – Sidon **DAY 3:** Echmoun – Chhim – Jezzine **DAY 4:** Maghdouche – Sarafand – Tyre – Umm Al-Amad *(upon availability)*
ITINERARY 7	**Jabal Moussa Route:** Jounieh – Ghineh – Yahchouch – Souaneh – Yanouh – Akoura/Laqlouq – Afqa – Mchati
ITINERARY 8	From the Lebanese city ports of Lebanon, the cultural tourism journey of the Phoenicians' Route will continue to Cyprus – Greece – Europe

RISE ABOVE LEBANON









Views taken from the video "Rise Above Lebanon"

Rise Above Lebanon (video)

Commissioned by the Lebanese Ministry of Tourism, this video is about filming Lebanon from above, including its rural, urban, cultural touristic and historical location, as well as the amazing number of festivals.

This video covers several parts of Lebanon, Mount Lebanon, Beirut, Southern Lebanon, the Beqaa, Baalbek and North Lebanon. Amazing support was received from the Ministry of Tourism, as well as the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Defense, the Lebanese Air Force and the Lebanese Army Intelligence.

The idea is to show ***Lebanon's beauty, diversity and wealth from another angle***, in order to encourage and promote international and domestic tourism.

Producer: Two Wheels Across
Director/DOP: Christian Ghammachi
Editing: Sebastien Leclercq
Music and Sound Design: Karim Khneisser





Back to *"Phoenicians' Route – Smart Ways – Lebanese Itineraries"*

ITINERARY 1 – *A Coastal Line Route to the Interior then South*

This itinerary is composed of 8 days; starting from Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, and ending in Umm Al-Amad, south Lebanon. Passing by several cities and villages on the coastal line and the interior area of Lebanon as per the table below.

ITINERARY 1	**DAY 1:** Beirut – Nahr El-Kalb – Jounieh – Jbeil **DAY 2:** Batroun – Hamat – El-Heri – Anfeh – Tripoli **DAY 3:** Arqa – Menjez – Al-Qoubaiyat **DAY 4:** Hermel/Beqaa Valley – Baalbek **DAY 5:** Niha – Ferzoul – Zahle – Chtaura **DAY 6:** Anjar – Kamid Al-Lawz – Mount Hermon/Rashaya Al-Wadi **DAY 7:** Arnoun – Tebnine **DAY 8:** Qana – Tyre – Umm Al-Amad *(Umm Al-Amad upon availability)*









ITINERARY 1 – DAY 1: Beirut – Nahr El-Kalb – Jounieh – Jbeil

It is an itinerary that starts from Beirut to Jbeil; as a first stop and a sleep-over for DAY 1.

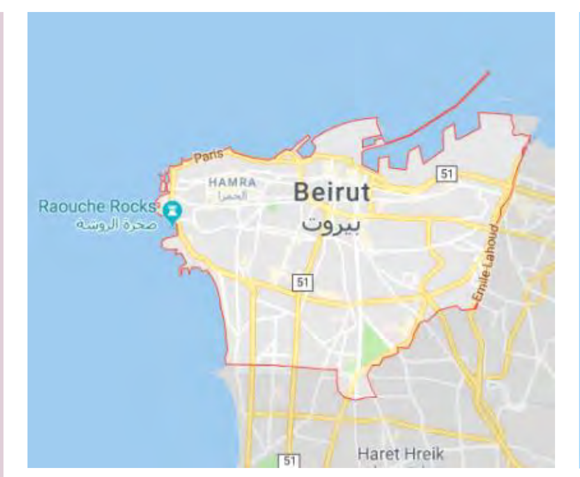
Passing by Nahr El-Kalb and Jounieh, several places can be discovered such as:

- Museums
- Archaeological sites and ruins from different civilizations
- Religious landmarks
- Historical places
- Grottos

Go back to *ITINERARY 1* table

BEIRUT

BEIRUT, the capital and the largest city of Lebanon, has hosted successive historic periods of major powers and civilizations in the Mediterranean and West Asia. It has layers of Phoenician, Roman, Byzantine, Mameluke, Ottoman and French mandate periods. Today's archaeological highlights include a Phoenician port, several Roman remains of a hippodrome, baths and temples.



Map of Beirut



Location of Beirut



Beirut Aerial View



Beirut National Museum



Rawsha Rock

BEIRUT

Visits

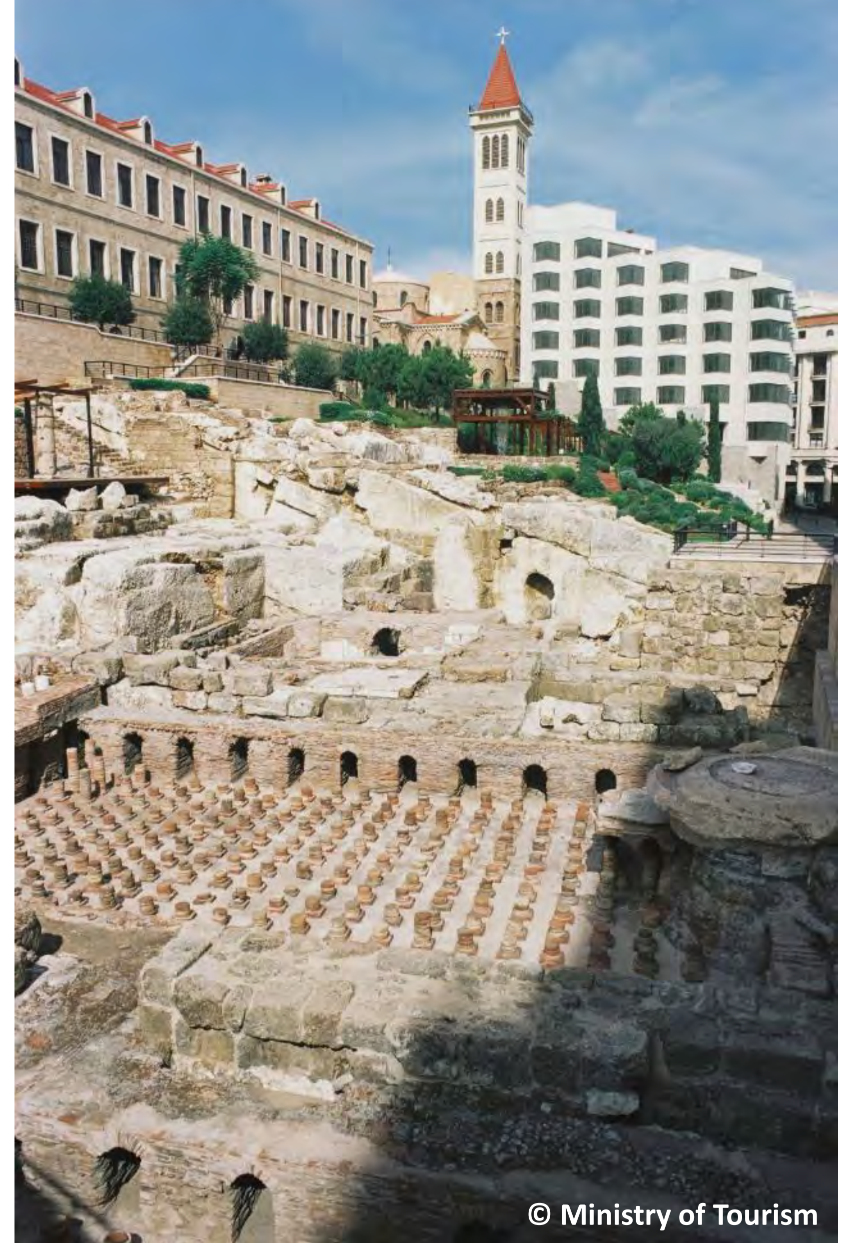
- Al-Umari Mosque of Beirut – interior panoramic view
- Beirut National Museum – interior panoramic views: 1 – 2 - 3
- AUB Archaeological Museum
- Heliopolis
- Lebanese Prehistoric Museum
- Sursock Palace/Sursock Museum – exterior panoramic view
- The Grand Serail (interior panoramic view – exterior panoramic view) / Roman Baths Garden – panoramic view
- Amir Assaf Mosque
- Al-Omari Mosque/St. John The Baptist Cathedral
- Mohammad Al-Amin Mosque - interior panoramic view
- Saint George Maronite Cathedral – interior panoramic view
- Saint Georges Greek Orthodox Cathedral – interior panoramic view
- Nejmeh Square/Abed Clock Tower
- Martyr's Square/Statue of the Martyr's
- Wadi Abu Jamil and The Maghen Abraham
- A Walk in Gourand Street
- Garden of Forgiveness, Archaeological Area



Sursock Palace/Sursock Museum



Al-Omari Mosque



Roman Baths








NAHR EL-KALB

NAHR EL-KALB is the ancient Lycus River. Past generals and conquerors have traditionally built monuments at the mouth of the Nahr El-Kalb, known as the Commemorative stelae of Nahr El-Kalb. In 2005, the stelae at the river were listed in the UNESCO Memory of the World initiative.

Panoramic views:

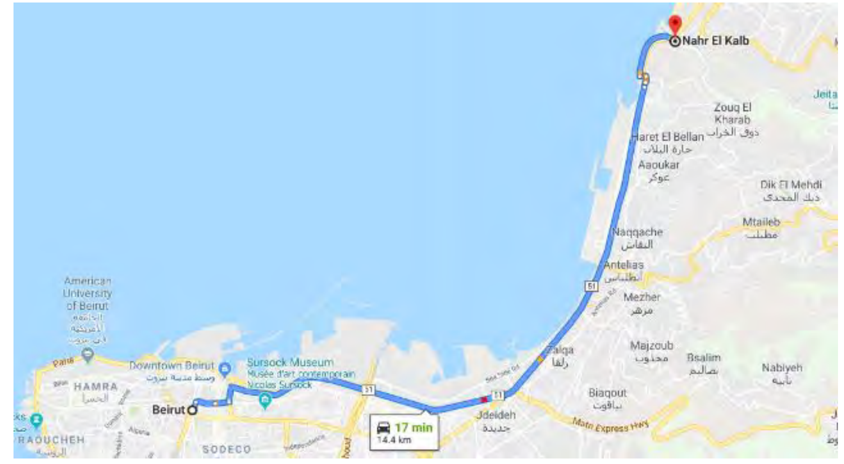
- Nahr El-Kalb – the river
- Nahr El-Kalb – the steles

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon





Location of Nahr El-Kalb



Road map from Beirut to Nahr El-Kalb

Commemorative stelae of Nahr El-Kalb

© DiscoverLebanon

NAHR EL-KALB

Visits

- Runs from a spring in Jeita near the Jeita Grotto to the Mediterranean Sea.
  Jeita Grotto panoramic views:
  - Lower cave (1)
  - Upper cave (1 – 2 – 3)

Lower Cave

JOUNIEH

- **JOUNIEH**, during the Phoenician period, the bay of Jounieh was an important winter shelter for ships sailing from the south to Byblos; hence, its name Palaebyblus (literary before Byblos). It is mentioned in the geography described in Strabo.
  The Geography of Strabo by Strabo

- **Jounieh panoramic views:**
  - The bay of Jounieh
  - The bay of Jounieh as seen from the sea
  - The Old Souk
  - The Sea Road

- General video about Jounieh



Map of Jounieh


Location of Jounieh



Road map from Nahr El-Kalb to Jounieh

© DiscoverLebanon

Jounieh Old Souk



JOUNIEH

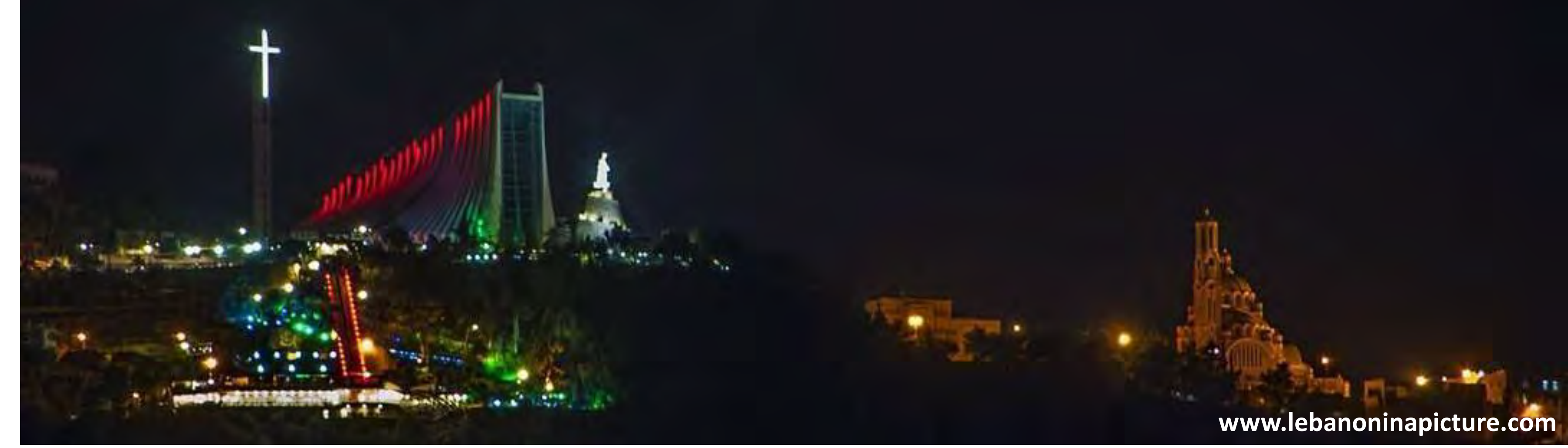
Visits

- The Phoenicians' Museum: The Municipality of Jounieh, as active member of the Phoenicians' Route, donated a historical building in the old souk of Jounieh that will be transformed into a Phoenicians' Route Museum. It is a project in process.
- Important winter shelter for ships sailing from the south to Byblos.
- St. Georges Garden
- St. Savior Orthodox Convent (Phoenician temple).
- Archaeological Museum of USEK.
- Jeita Grotto.
  Jeita Grotto panoramic views:
  - Lower cave (1)
  - Upper cave (1 – 2 – 3)
- Ancient Lycus River (Nahr El-Kalb).
- Harissa panoramic views:
  - Harissa interior view of the cathedral
  - Harissa outdoor views (1 – 2)


Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



St. Georges Garden



Harissa and St. Paul Cathedral at Night



Louis Cardahi Foundation











JBEIL

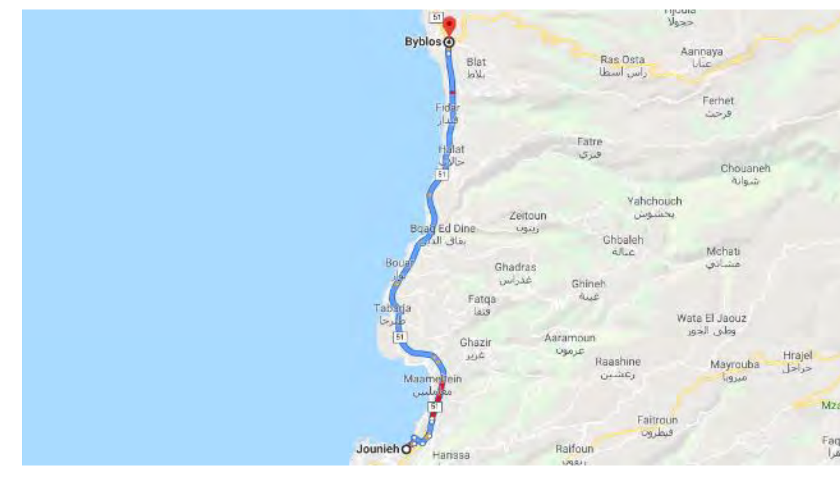
JBEIL is believed to have been first occupied between 8800 and 7000 BC and continuously inhabited since 5000 BC, making it one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Map of Jbeil



Location of Jbeil



Road map from Jounieh to Jbeil

Jbeil Harbour

JBEIL

Visits

- Archaeological site – panoramic view
- Old Souk – panoramic view
- St. John the Baptist Church – panoramic view
- Medieval City Wall
- The Harbour & Harbour Towers – panoramic views (1 – 2)
- Al Sultan Ibrahim Adham Mosque
- Roman Road – panoramic view (Christmas 2014 – Christmas 2016)
- Roman Nymphaeum
- Saydet Al Bouebeh Church
- Sultan Abd Al Majid Mosque
- Byblos Site Museum
- The Alphabet Museum
- Umayyad Museum



Bronze Age City Fortification



The Roman Theater



The Alphabet Museum



ITINERARY 1 – DAY 2: : Batroun – Hamat – El-Heri – Anfeh – Tripoli

After spending the night in Jbeil, the second day of the Itinerary 1 leads to Tripoli passing by Batroun – Hamat – El-Heri and Anfeh .

Passing by these coastal cities, you can see several places such as:

- Museums
- Ruins from different civilizations
- Religious landmarks
- Historical places
- Churches and mosques
- Citadels
- Khans

Go back to *ITINERARY 1* table












BATROUN

BATROUN, derives from the Greek Botrys, is founded by the Phoenicians on the southern side of the promontory called in Antiquity, Theoprosopon (*Râs ach-Chaq'a'*) and during the Byzantine Empire, Cape Lithoprosopon.

The city was under Roman rule to Phoenicia Prima province, and later after the region was Christianized became a suffragan of the Patriarchate of Antioch.

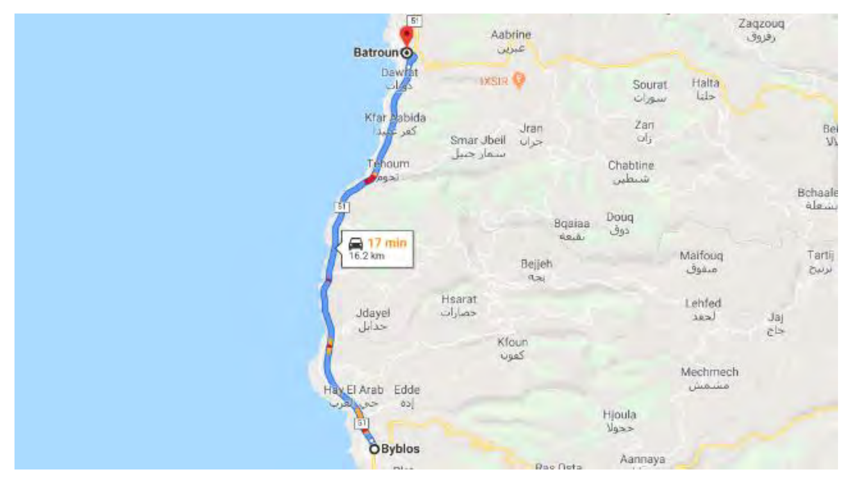




Map of Batroun



Location of Batroun



Road map from Jbeil to Batroun

© Ministry of Tourism

Batroun General View

BATROUN

Visits

- Phoenician wall – panoramic view
- The Roman Theater – panoramic view
- St. Estephan Church
- The Old Souk
- Miraculous Lady of the Sea

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Makaad El-Mir Ruins

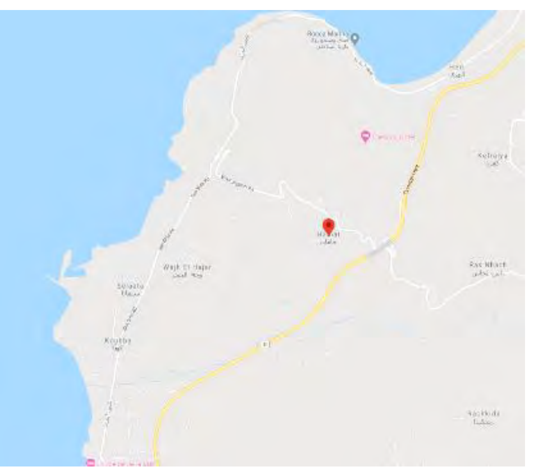
© Ministry of Tourism

Phoenician Wall

HAMAT

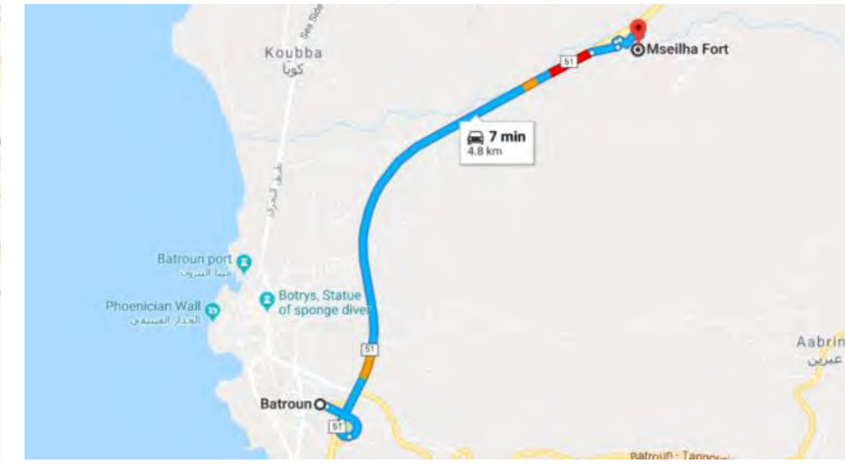
THE MSEILHA FORT is a fortification situated 5.5km north of the city of Batroun in Lebanon. The current fort was built by Emir Fakhreddine II in the 17th century to guard the route from Tripoli to Beirut. The fort is built on a long, narrow limestone rock near the Nahr el-Jawz River.

Its walls are constructed with small sandstone blocks quarried from the nearby coast and built onto the edge of the limestone rock.



Map of Hamat

Location of Hamat



Road map from Batroun to Hamat (Mseilha Fort)

© DiscoverLebanon

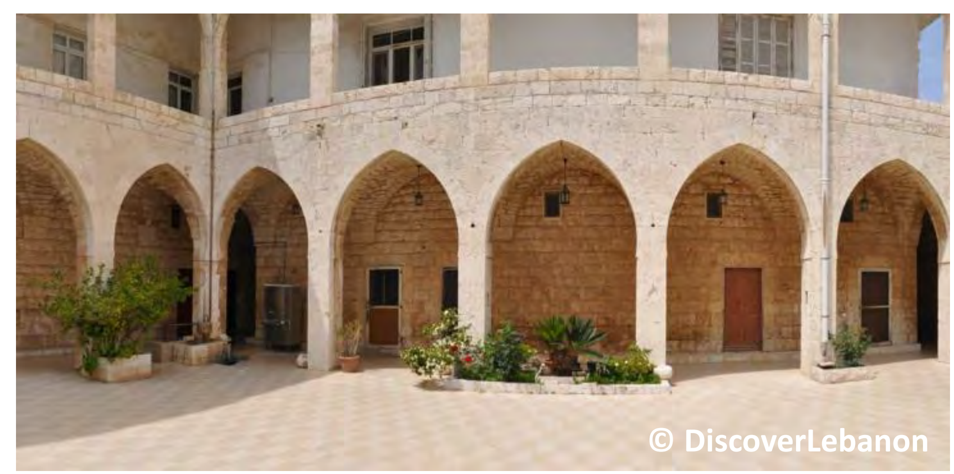
The Mseilha Fort

HAMAT

Visits

- The Mseilha Fort is a fortification situated 5.5 km north of the city of Batroun – panoramic view
- Lady of Nourieh, a Marian shrine called the Lady of Light – panoramic views (1 – 2)

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon





Lady of Nourieh Interior Interior Courtyard

© Ministry of Tourism

View from Lady of Nourieh







EL-HERI

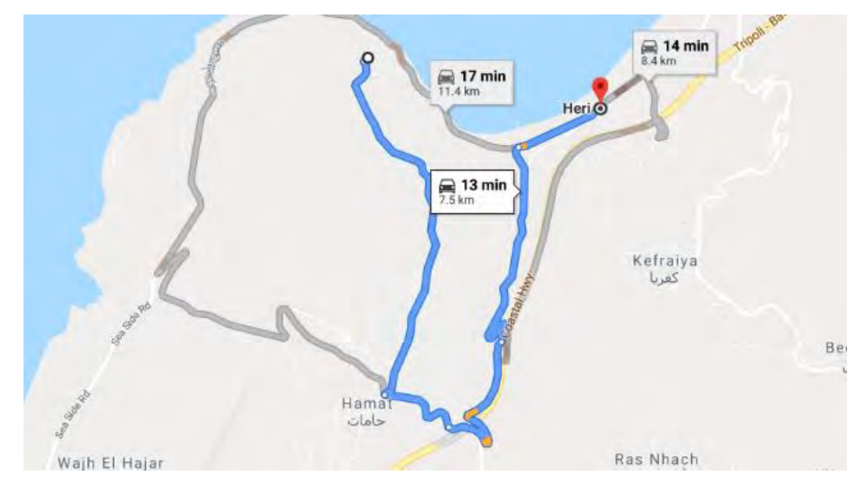
THE NABU MUSEUM permanent collection provides a view of the extended history of the Levant and Mesopotamia, it also provides a comfortable working space for practicing artists. It is designed to act as an institution for preserving and promoting Lebanese culture, reaching out to local and wider communities through educational programs, tours, public lectures, and guided permanent and visiting exhibitions.



Map of El-Heri



Location of El-Heri



Road map from Hamat (Mseilha Fort) to El-Heri



Nabu Museum (view from the sea)



Nabu Museum (main view)

EL-HERI

Visits

- Nabu Museum: The Nabu Museum permanent collection provides a view of the extended history of the Levant and Mesopotamia, it also provides a comfortable working space for practicing artists. It is designed to act as an institution for preserving and promoting Lebanese culture, reaching out to local and wider communities through educational programs, tours, public lectures, and guided permanent and visiting exhibitions.



El-Heri Mountain





Nabu Museum (outdoor artifact)

ANFEH

ANFEH is among the coastal Phoenician cities and towns that still exist today in Lebanon. Prior to the recent excavation, Anfeh was thought to have been founded around 1300 BC, but the pottery, which dates to 3200 BC, provides compelling evidence that the town was once a much older and significant city in antiquity. The remains of these civilizations include Phoenician and Roman walls, wine presses, mosaics, places of worship, caves, water tanks, and steps.



Map of Anfeh

Location of Anfeh

Road map from El-Heri to Anfeh





The Phoenician Reservoir



Anfeh Aerial View



ANFEH

Visits

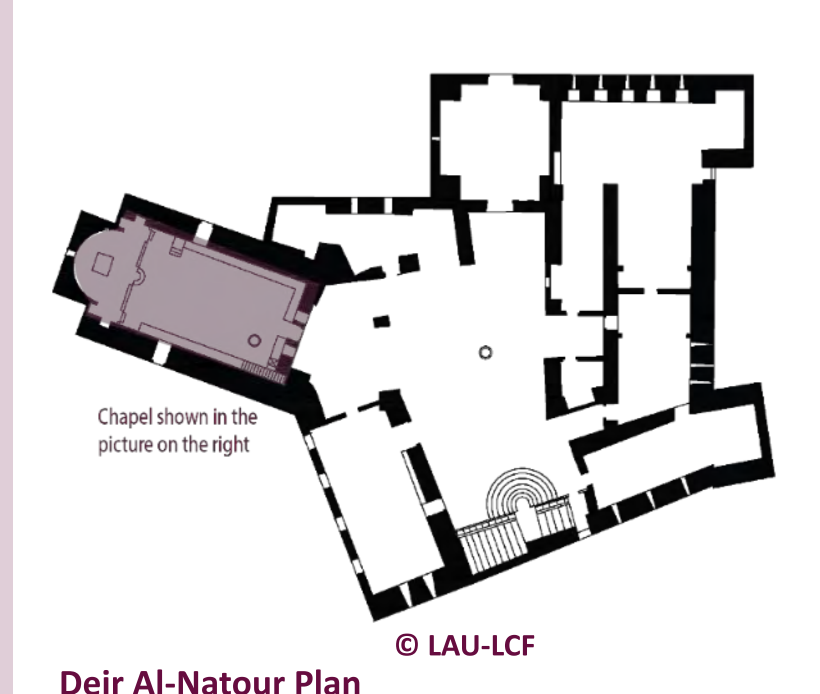
The remains of the civilizations include Phoenician and Roman walls, wine presses, mosaics, places of worship, caves, water tanks, and steps.

- Our Lady of the Wind
- St. Catherine Church
- Al-Qalaa (the Citadel) – panoramic view
- Deir Al-Natour and sea salt bassins – panoramic view

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Anfeh Beach





Deir Al-Natour Plan



Deir Al-Natour (interior view)

TRIPOLI

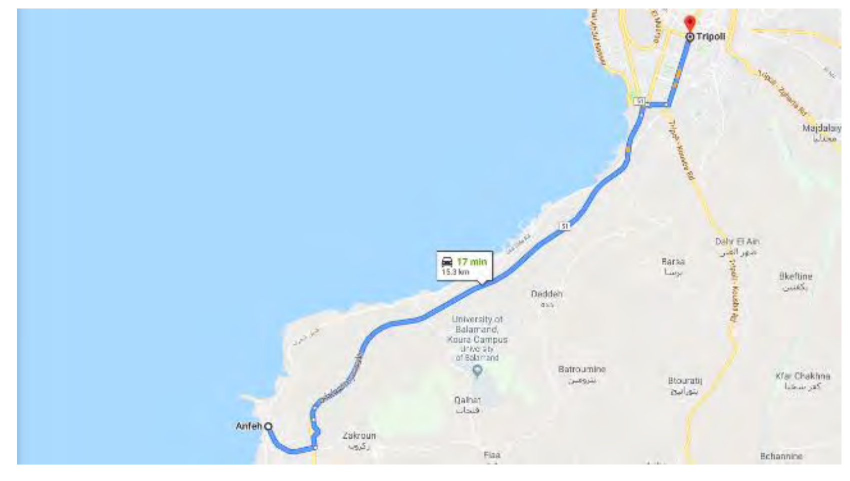
TRIPOLI, founded by the Phoenicians around 800 BC is today the second largest city and main port in Lebanon. Like Beirut, the city witnessed the presence of various Mediterranean cultures and empires including the Canaanites/Phoenicians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Umayyad, Abbasid, Crusaders, Ayyubid, Mamluks, Ottoman and French. Facing the shores of the city there are the Palm Islands, which known for its green turtles, and which was declared a Protected Nature Reserve by the UNESCO in 1992.



Map of Tripoli



Location of Tripoli



Road map from Anfeh to Tripoli



Souk Al-Khayatin



The Citadel of Tripoli

TRIPOLI

Visits

- The Taynal Mosque – exterior panoramic view – interior panoramic views (1 – 2)
- Saint-Gilles Citadel
- St. John of Mont-Pelerin Church
- Al-Mansouri Great Mosque
- Al-Bourtassi Mosque and Madrassa – panoramic view
- Abd El-Wahed Mosque
- Al-Ouwaissiya Mosque
- Al-Attar Mosque
- Al-Muallaq Mosque
- Arghoun Shah Mosque
- Al-Qartawiyya Madrassa
- Al-Tawashiyah Madrassa
- Al-Saqraqiyah Madrassa
- Khan Al-Saboun (Soap) – panoramic view
- Khan Al-Khaiyatine (Tailors)
- Khan Al-Askar (Soldiers)
- Souk Al-Haraj
- Hammam Al-Nouri
- Hammam Izz Eddine
- Hammam Al-Jadid
- Clock Tower/Manshieh Park
- The Lion’s Tower
- The Train Station



Khan Al-Saboun



Al-Mansouri Great Mosque



After spending the night in Tripoli, the second day leads to Arqa, Menjez and Al-Qoubayiat.

Passing by these villages, several places can be visited such as:

- Archaeological sites and ruins from different civilizations
- Monasteries
- Natural landscapes

Go back to *ITINERARY 1* table

ARQA

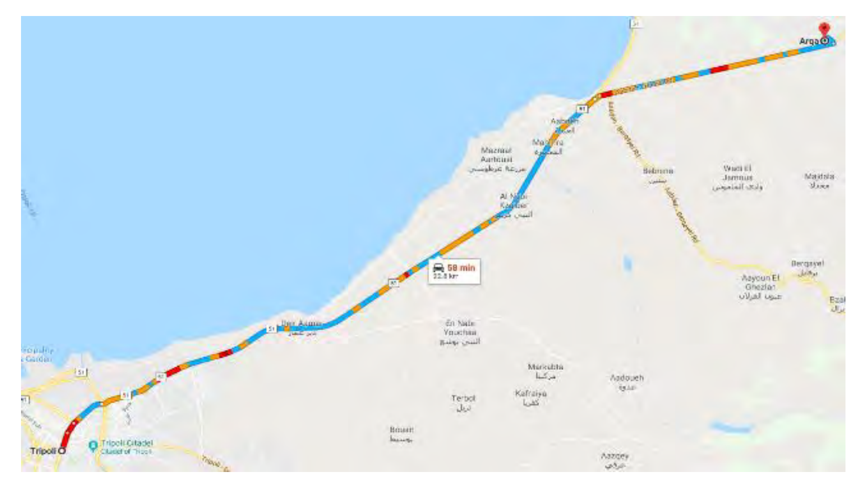
ARQA (Phoenician: *Irqata*; *'Arqat'* in the Bible) is a village near Miniara in Akkar Governorate, Lebanon, 22 km northeast of Tripoli, near the coast. The former bishopric became a double Catholic titular see (Latin and Maronite). The Roman Emperor Alexander Severus was born there. It is significant for the Tell Arqa, an archaeological site that goes back to Neolithic times, and during the Crusades there was a strategically significant castle.



Map of Arqa



Location of Arqa



Road map from Tripoli to Arqa

Archaeological Site

ARQA

Visits

- Tell Arqa archaeological site: *"excavation works carried out by the French expedition since 1972 in the archaeological site, overlooking the Akkar Plain, revealed the remains of lodgings, temples, wells, burial jars, brick, pottery, jewelry and mosaic plates, all dating back to several periods starting from pre-historical ages. Those archaeological remains testify the succession of several civilizations in the Canaanite Phoenician city of Arqa".*

"History of the Lebanese Worldwide Presence, the Phoenician Epoch" by Dr. Antoine Khoury Harb



Ruins



Mound (Tell) Arqa



Archaeological Site








MENJEZ

The village of **MENJEZ** is the home to a number of interesting historical, archaeological and religious sites, including: Beit Jaalouk temple (or "*Maqam ar-Rabb*", an ancient roman temple and worship site for the goddess Nemesis, dating from the first century AD); a crusader castle ruins "*Qalaat Felis*" inhabited by the Chevalier de St. Jean de Jerusalem or what is also known as Ordre de Malte, the castle belonged to the Comté de Tripoli; the Maronite Monastery of our Lady of the Fort "*Deir Saydet El Qalaa*" built by the Jesuits Order in the 19th century; remains of a roman canal; and 180 pre-historic tombs dating back to 5,000 years BC. This archaeological diversity and richness gives Menjez the possibility to become and archaeological park for research, education, and tourism.



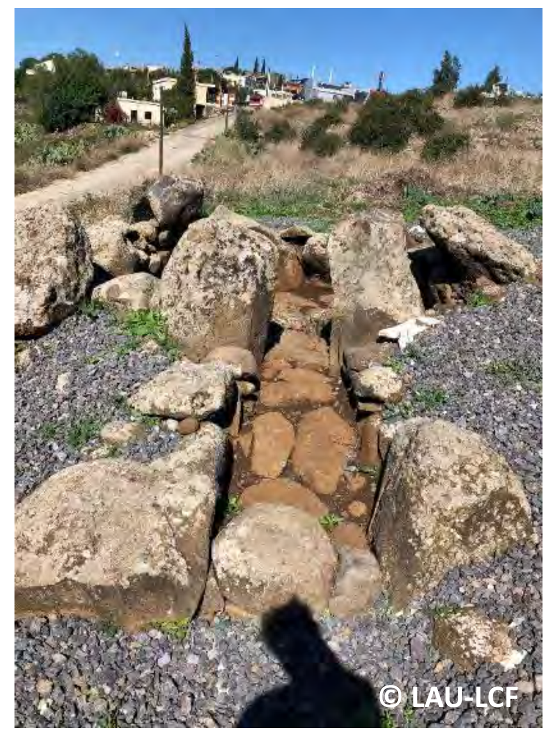
Map of Menjez



Location of Menjez



Road map from Arqa to Menjez



Megalithic Tombs



Menjez Site

MENJEZ

Visits

Architectural Heritage:

- Roman basalt temple called Maqam Er-Rabb or Beit Jaalouk
- Qalaat Feliz
- Saydet El-Qalaa (Lady of the Fort) – panoramic view
- Megalithic Tombs 87 megalithic dolmens marking the site of historic graves dating from about 3000 BC
- The ruins of a Crusader castle, the Felix or the Felicium of the Hospitallers of Saint John of Jerusalem

Natural Heritage:

- Menjez river characterized by its natural pools
- Nahr el-Kebir river running through the border valley between Lebanon and Syria
- El-Horsh el-Assouad, a forest of laurels and oaks that stretches over 485.000 m2



Ruins in Menjez



Megalithic Tombs



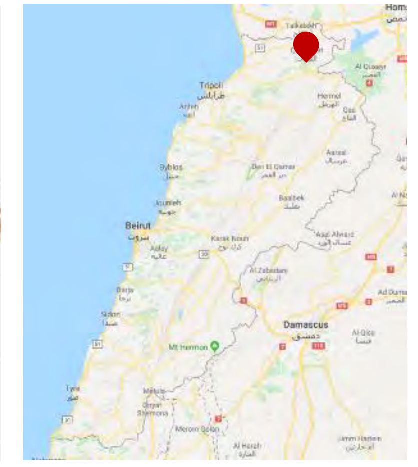
Maqam Er-Rabb

AL-QOUBAIYAT

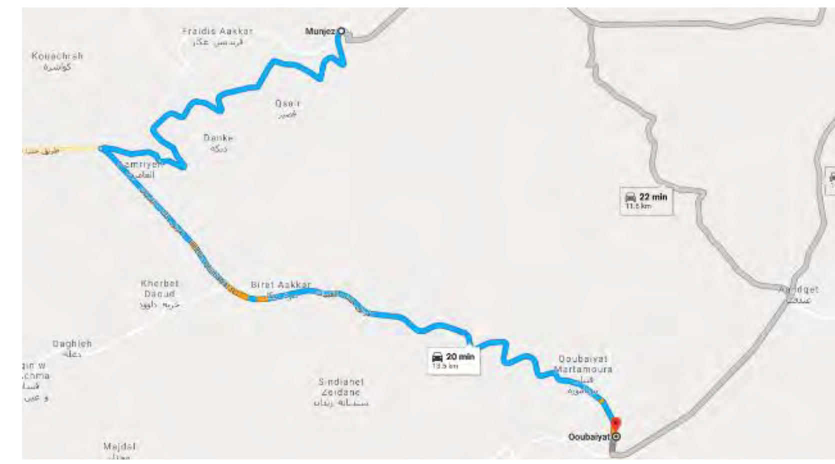
The origin of the name **"AL QOUBAIYAT"** is Aramaic. The word "Qbayya" means the big pool of water, and "Qbayyat" is the plural of it. That region was called "Qbayyat" for being rich in water sources.



Map of Al-Qoubaiyat



Location of Al-Qoubaiyat



Road map from Menjez to Al-Qoubaiyat

© DiscoverLebanon

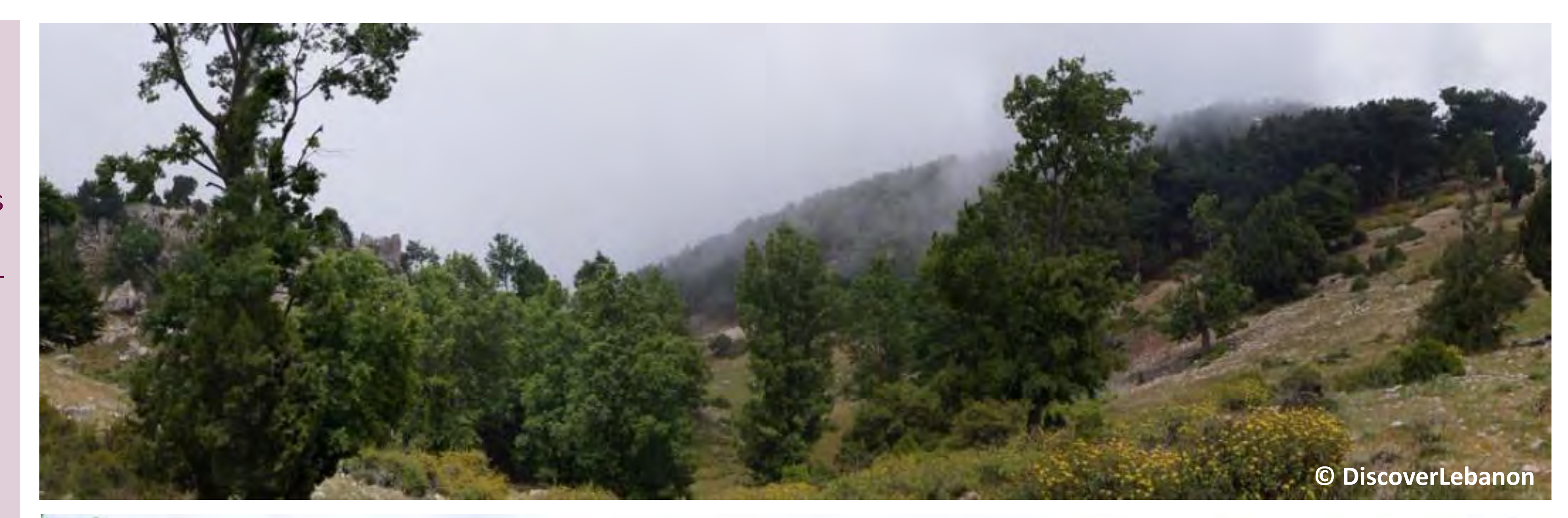
Mar Artimos Challita Monastery

AL-QOUBAIYAT

Visits

- A region rich in water source.
- Al-Qoubaiyat Forest – panoramic views (1 – 2 – 3)
- Mar Artimos Challita Monastery – panoramic views (1 – 2)

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon





Al-Qoubayiyat Forest






ITINERARY 1 – DAY 4: Hermel/Beqaa Valley – Baalbek

MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Menjez
Al-Qoubaiyat
Arqa
Tripoli
Hermel/ Beqaa Valley
Anfeh
El-Heri
Hamat
Batroun
Jbeil
Baalbek
Jounieh
Nahr El-Kalb
Beirut
Niha
Ferzoul
Zahleh
Chtaura
Anjar
Kamid Al-Lawz
Mount Hermon/ Rashaya Al-Wadi
Arnoun
Tyre
Qana
Tebnine
Umm Al-Amad
TOURIST MAP OF LEBANON
Scale = 1 : 200 000
LEGEND

After spending the night in Al-Qoubayiat, DAY 4 leads to Hermel/Beqaa Valley and ends in Baalbek as stop/sleep-over.

Several places can be in the tour of such as:

- Archaeological sites and ruins from different civilizations
- Monasteries
- Rivers
- Temples
- Historic caves

Go back to *ITINERARY 1* table



HERMEL/BEQAA VALLEY

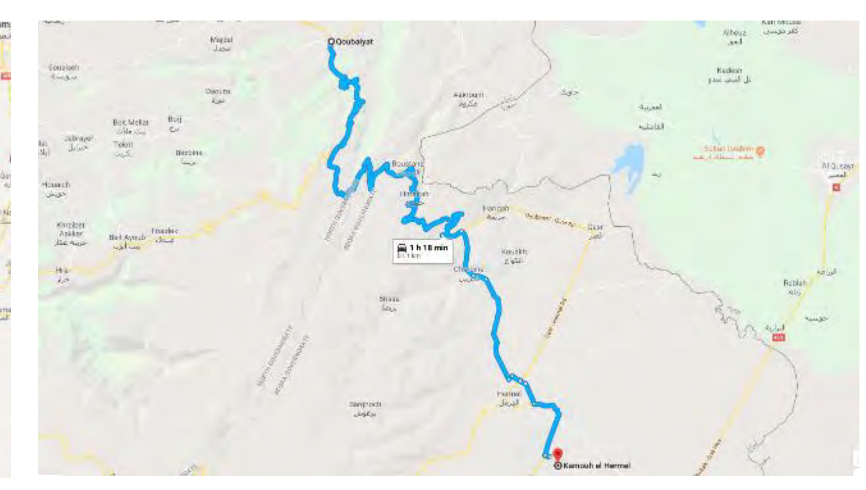
KAMOUH EL-HERMEL, the pyramid has been suggested to date to the first or second century BC due to similarities with architecture of tower tombs of the late Seleucid era at Palmyra in Syria.

The pyramid sits on top of a hill that is clearly visible from a distance and has been fenced off to prevent damage.



Map of Hermel

Location of Hermel



Road map from Al-Qoubayat to Hermel/Beqaa Valley

© DiscoverLebanon

Ancient Pyramid

HERMEL/BEQAA VALLEY

Visits

- An ancient pyramid located 6 Km south of Hermel – panoramic view
- St. Maron Monastery – panoramic view
- Scenic road trip
- Several temples located in the area of Beqaa such as (Qasr Banat, Iaat, Ferzoul Habis, Temnin El-Foka and Nahle).
- A Cuneiform Inscription at Wadi Brissa – panoramic views (1 – 2). It relates the deeds of Nabuchodonosor, king of Babylon, who came to Lebanon to procure cedar wood in order to worthily embellish his palace and the temple of the god Mardok (604 and 562 B.C.).
- Nahr el-Assi, the Orontes River – panoramic view.

St. Maron Monastery

SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA

1. **Iaat:** Corinthian column
2. **Nahle:** Roman temple
3. **Temnin el-Foka:** Roman temple
4. **Qasr Banat:** ancient temple (probably Roman)
5. **Ferzoul Habis:** Hermit caves

TYPOLOGY OF TEMPLES

The typology of the temples has been studied and they are generally divided into **Antae, Prostylos or Peripteral types**.

- **Antae** temples have side walls that extend to form a porch at the front or rear (or both) and terminated in pilasters that were called the *antae*.
- If columns were placed in advance of the walls or antae, the temple was termed **Prostylos**
- If columns surrounded the temple it was termed **Peripteral**. The peripteral type is thought to be the most perfect form of temple and the best preserved of this type is the Temple of Bacchus at Baalbek.

Location of some temples in the area of Beqaa

SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA

1 IAAT

The location of the Pillar is 4 miles (6 km) northwest of the Baalbek ruins, between the towns of Baalbeck and Chlifa.

At one point a plaque was installed on the northern side of the monument; however, it has been removed and no other history is known of the column, which is believed to be a funerary monument. The column is also widely believed in local legend to be related to St. Helena, but it is most likely a funerary monument.

Whilst technically not being a temple, Taylor suggested that the column might have been placed where it is as a victory column to mark the site of a great ancient battle. He also noted a cartouche on the sixth cylinder of the column.

Back to the slide *"SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA"*



Location of the Temple of Iaat





SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA



2 NAHLE:

Situated northeast of Baalbeck above a deep and very pretty valley, the slopes of this village are studded with the familiar burial chambers often found near Roman/Byzantine sites.

There are the ruins of a Roman temple in the village that are included in a group of Temples of the Beqaa Valley.

The temple foundations are made of gigantic blocks of stone, upon which sit the remains of a podium. The podium has a long inscription written on it that is now almost impossible to read.

Back to the slide *"SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA"*

Location of the Temple of Nahle

The massive foundation stones of Nahle' s Roman temple suggest that a mighty structure once stood here.

This sanctuary consisted of two parts: an open air court and a large room with a ceiling where notches for the wooden beam still exist.

Only a few courses of stone are still standing, but the temple maintains its dignity despite crowding by modern village residences.

SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA

3 TEMNIN EL-FOKA:

The village of Temnin el Fawqa is located at the lower eastern part of Mount Sanin. The numerous springs of the region explain human settlement there, and the development of the flowing water goddess cult. In this area apart from the Nympaeum Sanctuary in Temnin.

Hadad and Atargatis are the water cult god and goddess. They were particularly worshiped during the Roman period. Temnin el-Foka is a nymphaeum is close to the spring of Ain el Job. The nymphaeum is an arched watercourse built of large stones that has been constructed 4 metres deep into a hill. It leads to a cistern underground. A gulley has formed at the outflow, where a boundary pillar is carved with the image of a goddess. It resembles a similar cippus at Kafr Zabad.


Back to the slide *"SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA"*



Location of the Temple of Temnin El-Foka





SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA

4 **QASR BANAT:**

An ancient temple (probably Roman) situated 1.5 Km east of Chlifa in the Baalbek District of the Beqaa Governorate in the city of Qsarnaba.

It is believed the site was called the *Castle of Virgins* and was the residence of virgins in Roman times. Indeed the arab world "Qasr" comes from the latin "castra" (meaning in English: "castle").

George F. Taylor classified Qasr el Banat among a group of ancient Roman Temples of the Beqaa Valley. It is suggested to date to Ancient Roman, but it is possible that was originally built as a very small temple- during Ancient Greek eras or earlier.

Back to the slide *"SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA"*



Location of the Temple of Qasr Banat

By the middle of the second century, the Romans had built many small temples and other sanctuaries in the vicinity of the temple district of Heliopolis, today's Baalbek, on the edge of the Beqaa. They were pilgrimage destinations for the inhabitants of the big cities on the coast. One of the Roman processional streets, partly carved out of the rock, led from here directly to the mountain temples of Hosn Niha. One of the most famous is the one in the village of Qsarnaba, called now "Castra El Banaat".

The temple is located on a rocky plateau, accessible by a climb up a hill at an altitude of 1,100 meters.

The top of the hill is covered in various platforms, cisterns, tanks and steps that have been carved out of solid bedrock. Within the remains is a small antae temple, constructed of large square blocks that was used as a fortress in later times. Some sections remain intact built up two or three layers high.

A basilica (probably Byzantine Christian) from a later period was built alongside the temple.

There are two circular structures located around 100 meters southeast of the temple that are thought to have been examples of the high places referred to in the Bible.

SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA

5 **FERZOUL HABIS:**

The historic caves of Habis were used as a hideout back in Roman and Byzantine eras.
Back then, reaching the caves was a difficult feat. But once inside, it's possible to reach any cave through interconnecting tunnels.
Now, the caves are a pleasant place to sit and enjoy a sunny day in the shade.
A spectacular landscape framed by the caves overlooks Wadi el Habis, Bekaa valley, and Anti Lebanon mountains.

Panoramic view of Ferzoul Habis

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon

Back to the slide *"SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA"*



Location of the Temple of Ferzoul Habis


© DiscoverLebanon


© LebanonUntravelled

BAALBEK

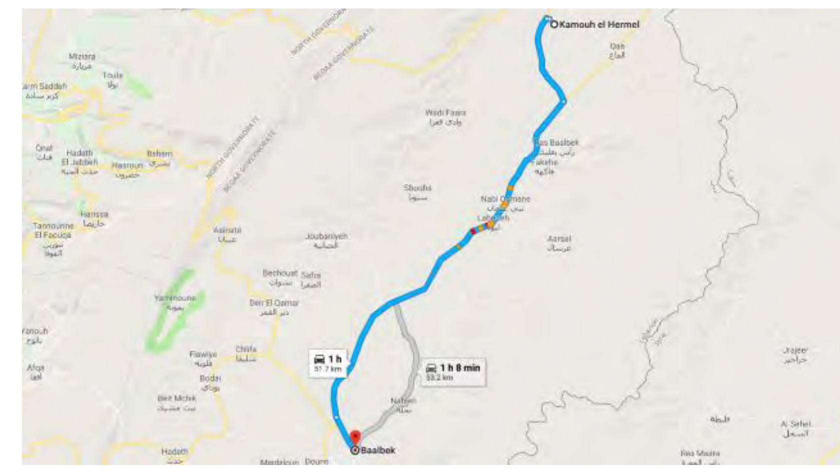
BAALBEK, founded by the Phoenicians, it was later conquered by the Macedonians who called it Heliopolis (always the City of the Sun) for assimilation between the god Sun and the Phoenician divinity Baal. Then it became a Roman colony under Augustus, preserving the new name. Today you can see three main buildings: the temple of Jupiter, the temple of Bacchus and the circular temple of Venus. A fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury is located on the hill of Sheikh Abdallah. inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).



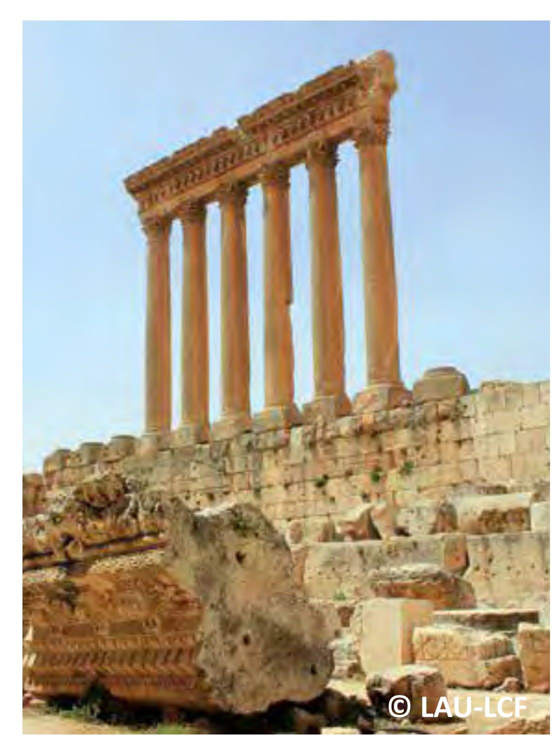
Map of Baalbek



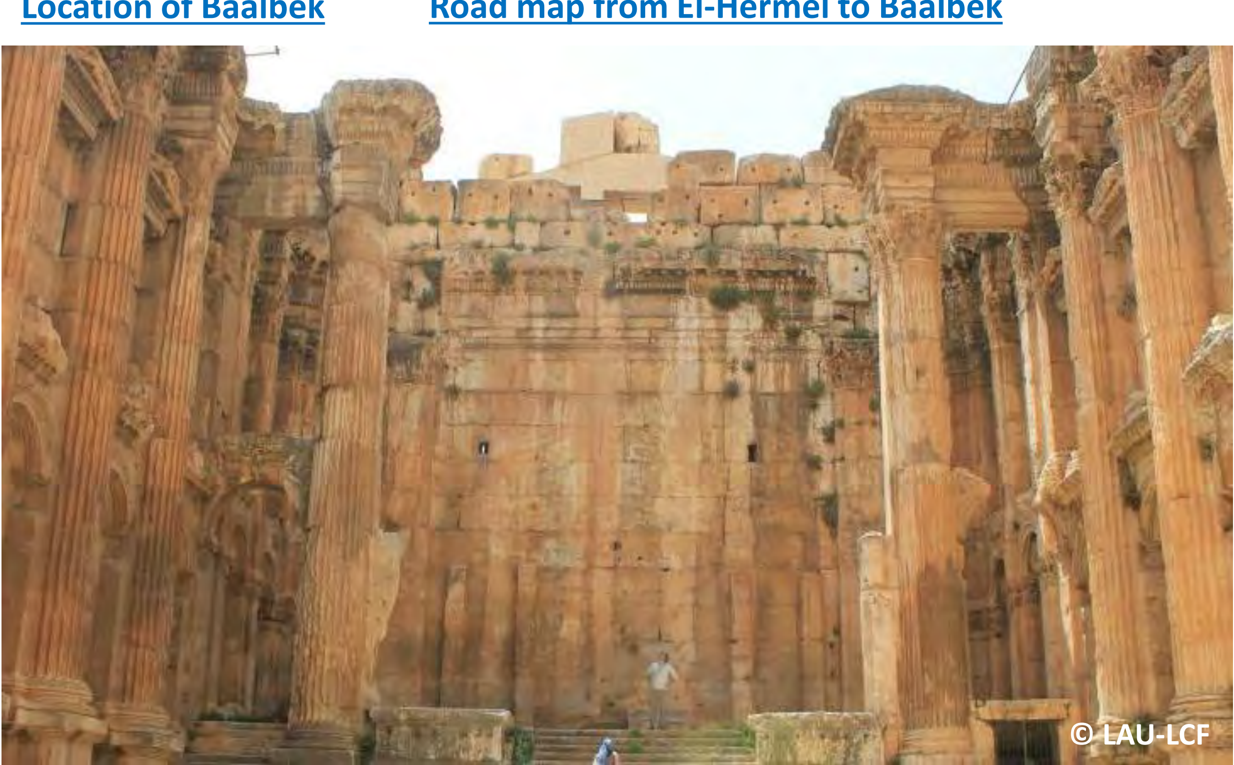
Location of Baalbek



Road map from El-Hermel to Baalbek



Temple of Jupiter



Cella of the temple of Bacchus





BAALBEK

Visits

- Three main buildings: the Temple of Jupiter, the Temple of Bacchus and the circular Temple of Venus and a fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury. Panoramic views of several monuments (1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6) and stone of the pregnant woman – panoramic view
- Heliopolis
- The Umayyad Mosque or The Great Friday Mosque
- Qubbat Al Sa’idayn
- Qubbat Douris
- Ras El Ain Spring
- Ras Al Imam Al Hussein Mosque
- Al Barbara Mosque
- The Shrine of Al Sayyida Khawla - panoramic view
- Cathedral of Fakieh – panoramic view
- Our Lady of Beshwet – panoramic views (1 – 2)




Temple of Bacchus



Temple of Venus

The Umayyad Mosque or The Great Friday Mosque

LAU Louis Cardahi Foundation Lebanese American University









ITINERARY 1 – DAY 5: Niha – Ferzoul – Zahle – Chtaura

After spending the night in Baalbek, DAY 5 leads to Niha and ends in Chtaura as a stop/sleep-over.

Passing by Ferzoul and Zahleh, several places can be visited such as:

- Wineries
- Temples
- Historic caves

Go back to *ITINERARY 1* table



Louis Cardahi Foundation







ITINERARY 1 – DAY 5: Niha – Ferzoul – Zahle – Chtaura

NIHA

NIHA Roman Temples are two temples dedicated to the Canaanite goddess of fertility *Atargatis* (Phoenician Astarte) the god of thunder lightning and rain, *Hadaranes*, and their son. It is also known for *Hosn Niha*, a structure of many layers the latest of which is a small a Byzantine Basilica.



Map of Niha

Location of Niha

Road map from Baalbek to Niha



The Big Roman Temple





NIHA

Visits

- Big and Small Roman Temples: Niha Roman Temples also known for Hosn Niha, a structure of many layers the latest of which is a small Byzantine Basilica – panoramic view.
- The Roman Fountain
- Roman Stone Quarry



Detail of Niha Temple



Niha Small Temple



Detail of Niha Temple



Upper Grand Roman Temple

FERZOUL

FERZOUL, a presence of foundations of a Roman temple dedicated to Apollo; many sculptures and engravings; a throne of kings or queens, etc.

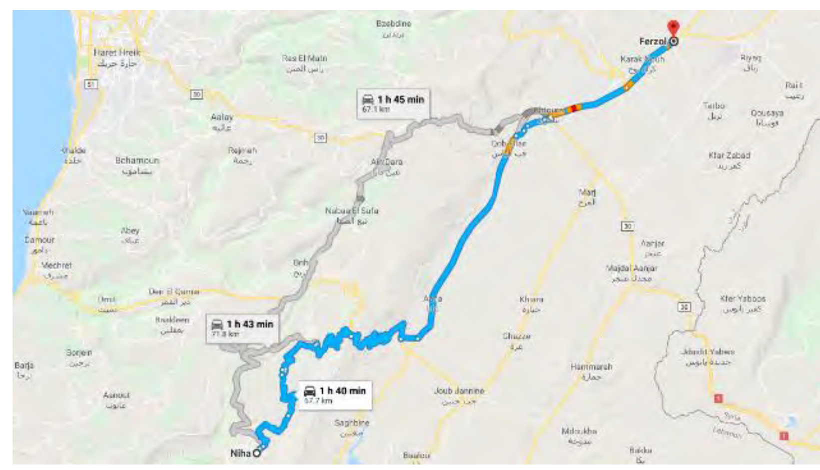
There are many caves on a hill in the north-east of the village in the time of the Byzantines, they were transformed into hermitages for the anchorites; a whole region is known as the plural: The caves of the hermits.

General panoramic view of Ferzoul.



Map of Ferzoul

Location of Ferzoul



Road map from Niha to Ferzoul

© DiscoverLebanon

Mountain of Ferzoul Habis

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon

FERZOUL

Visits

- Caves transformed into hermitages (habis). The caves are a group of Byzantine, Roman, and Canaanite tombs and stone temples. They occur at regular intervals and are partly natural, partly man-made. All are cut in the shape of a dome and most of them have a reservoir dug in the center, a niche with a carved cone-like shape inside it. This probably represents a god sculpted in an archaic way according to local Semitic tradition.

Ferzoul Habis








ITINERARY 1 – DAY 5: Niha – Ferzoul – Zahle – Chtaura

ZAHLE

ZAHLE is known as the "Bride of the Beqaa" for its geographical location and attractiveness, but also as "the City of Wine and Poetry“.

It is famous throughout Lebanon and the region for its pleasant climate, numerous riverside restaurants and quality arak.

General panoramic view of Zahle

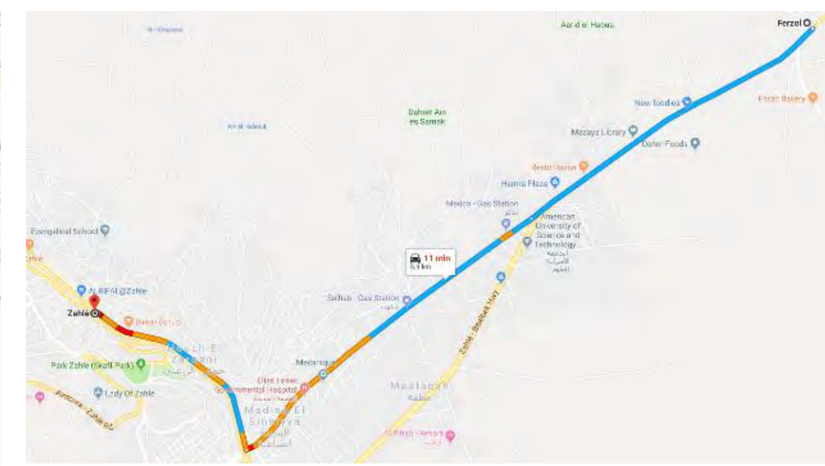
Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Map of Zahle



Location of Zahle



Road map from Ferzoul to Zahle

© Ministry of Tourism

General View of Zahle

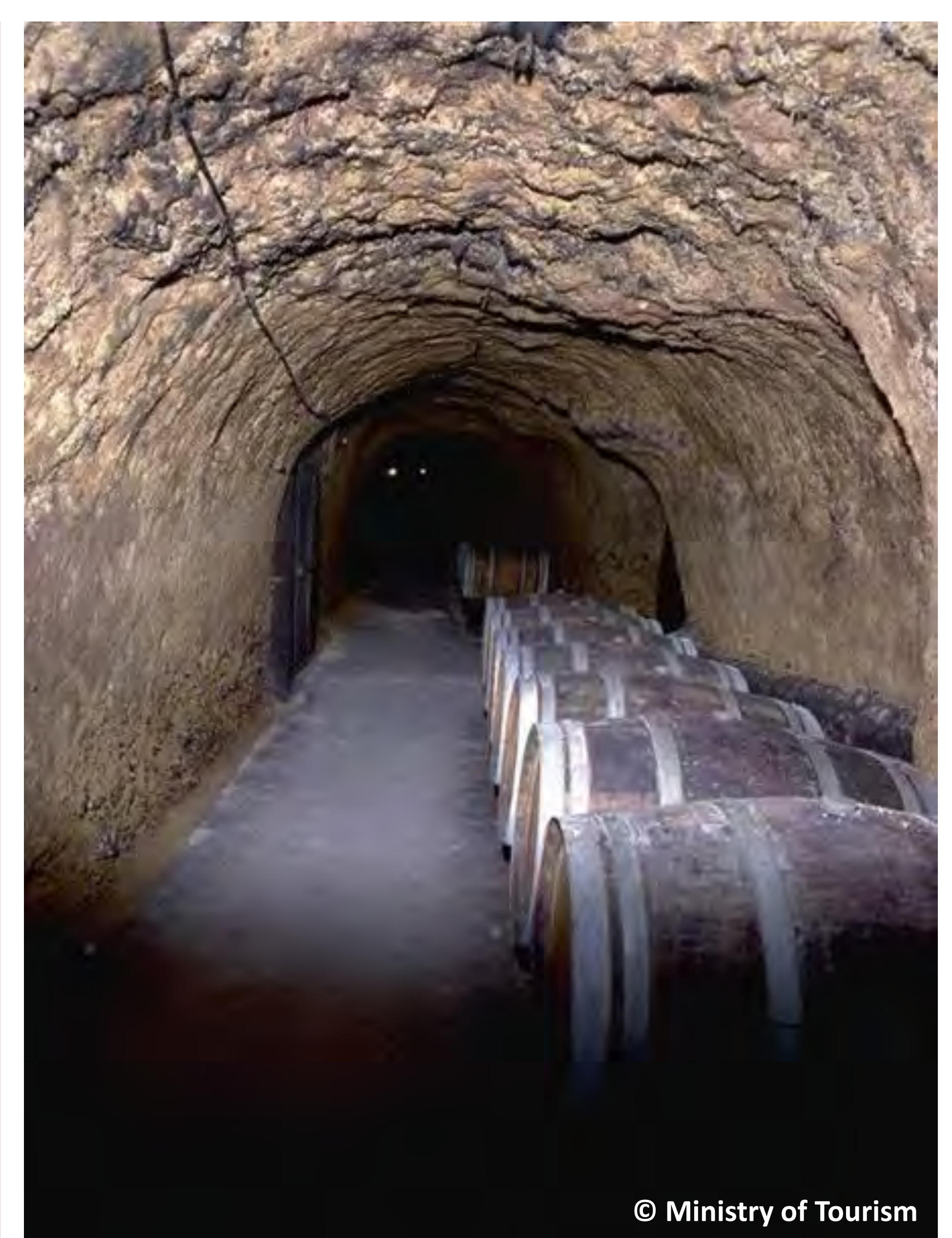
ZAHLE

Visits

Zahle is known for being the "City of Wine and Poetry"

- Chateau St. Thomas: Château St Thomas estate is a vineyard spreading over 65 hectares and a wine storehouse for fermentation and ageing. On this very land of the Beqaa valley, the Romans had once created the Temple of Bacchus, a tribute to the Roman god of wine. Throughout history, this land still shows unlimited potential to produce great wines.
- Chateau Ksara: was founded in 1857 by Jesuit Priests who produced the country's first dry red wine. Château Ksara is Lebanon's oldest, largest and most visited winery, attracting some 70,000 visitors per year (Chateau Ksara panoramic view)


Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon


© Ministry of Tourism

Ksara Wineries


© Ministry of Tourism

Shrine of Our Lady of Zahle



© DiscoverLebanon

Chateau Ksara

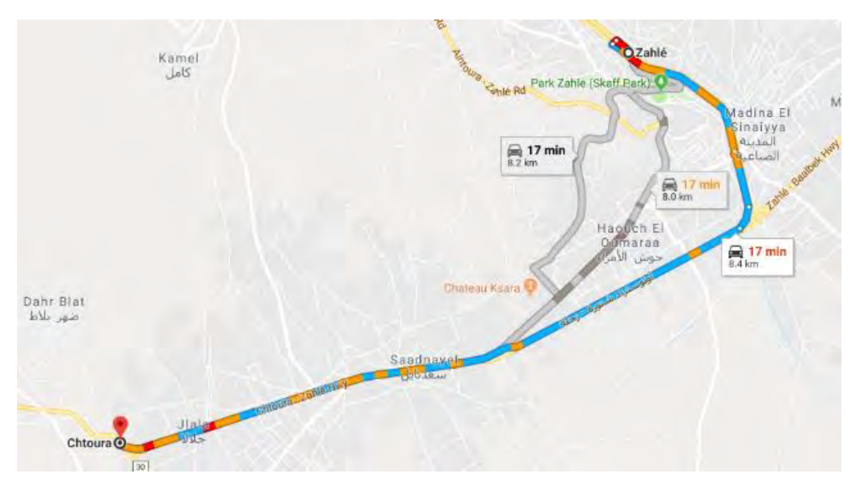
CHTAURA

CHTAURA is the valley's hub for banking, transportation, and commerce, hotels, restaurants and (wineries since 1868).



Map of Chtaura

Location of Chtaura



Road map from Zahle to Chtaura

© LebanonUntravelled

Domaine des Tourelles Winery

CHTAURA

Visits

Wineries and factories since 1868:

- Domaine des Tourelles Winery
- Chateau Nakad
- Chateau Khoury
- Arak Touma Factory

Chtaura wineries

ITINERARY 1 – DAY 6: Anjar – Kamid Al-Lawz – Mount Hermon/Rashaya Al-Wadi

After spending the night in Chtaura, DAY 6 leads to Anjar and ends Mount Hermon/Rashaya Al-Wadi as a stop/sleep-over, passing by Kamid Al-Lawz.

Several places can be seen such as:

- Archaeological sites and ruins from different civilizations
- Temples

Go back to *ITINERARY 1* table



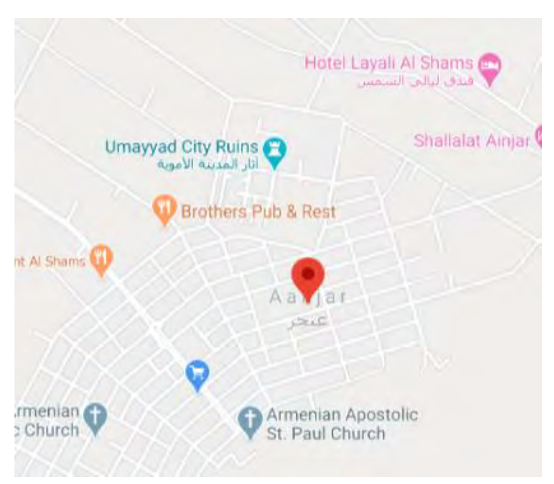





ANJAR

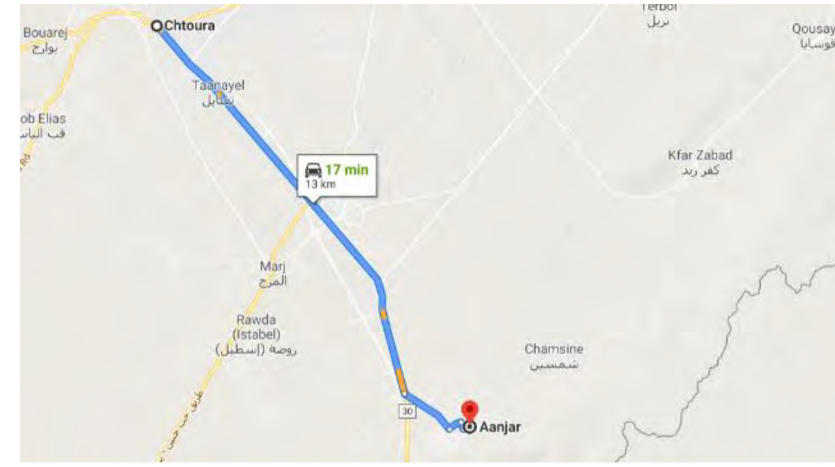
ANJAR, was founded by Caliph Walid Ibn 'Abd al-Malak around 705 AD. The Umayyads built it and turned it into an important commercial center as it linked Damascus, Homs, Baalbek and the Palestinian plains. It shone for only 20-30 years. Anjar displays a good example of early Islamic architecture and its influence by Roman-Byzantine architecture. This is clearly visible in the various construction techniques and decorations in the city.

Anjar is a heritage site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).



Map of Anjar

Location of Anjar



Road map from Chtaura to Anjar

© LAU-LCF

Umayyad city of Anjar







ITINERARY 1 – DAY 6: Anjar – Kamid Al-Lawz – Mount Hermon/Rashaya Al-Wadi

ANJAR

Visits

- Important commercial centers built by the Umayyads – panoramic view
- Early Islamic architecture monuments
- Bathhouse
- Little Palace
- Main Streets, colonnades and walls
- Mosque
- The Great Palace
- Qalaat Al-Hosn

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



The market arcades





The souks

© LAU-LCF

The Great Palace








KAMID AL-LAWZ

KAMID AL LAWZ is one of the most important sites in Lebanon where archaeologists found and recorded many spectacular buildings, which are very important to the history of the region. Paleolithic material was found alongside Heavy Neolithic on through to the late Neolithic period, becoming a seat of state in the Bronze age and continuing until the Byzantine era, a German team from the University of Freiburg has conducted more recent excavations and studies.

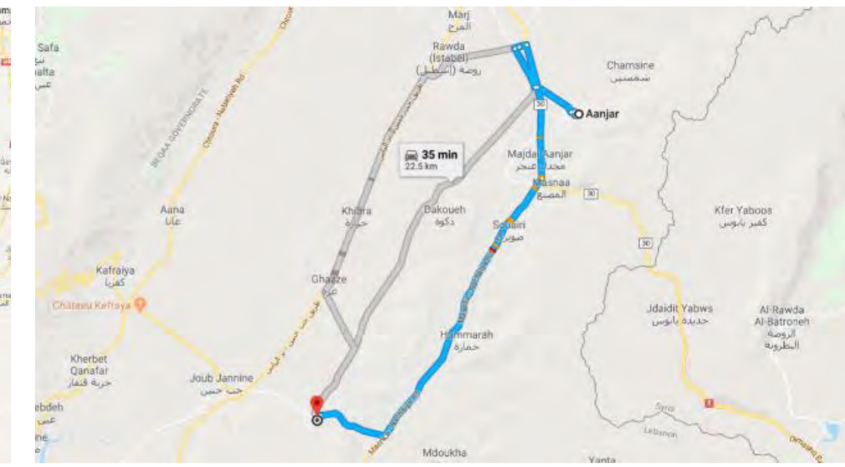
Panoramic views of Kamid Al-Lawz (1 – 2)



Map of Kamid Al-Lawz



Location of Kamid Al-Lawz



Road map from Anjar to Kamid Al-Lawz

Kamid Al-Lawz General View

KAMID AL-LAWZ

Visits

- Archaeological site containing ruins from Paleolithic and Neolithic eras, Early, Middle and Late Bronze ages, Iron (I-II-III) ages and from different civilizations (Roman and Byzantine and French Mandate)



Agricultural Land





Kamid Al-Lawz Archaeological Tell

MOUNT HERMON/RASHAYA AL-WADI

MOUNT HERMON/RASHAYA AL-WADI region is a significant cultural heritage site in the eastern mountain terrain. The temples which circled Hermon were oriented to the cone-shaped tip of Kasr Es-Sebayb, the highest point of the mountain and the site of a sacred enclosure in Roman and pre-Roman time. The temples which circle Hermon are, from the south: Hebbariya, Ain Harsha, Ain Libbaya, Nebi Safa , Akbeh, Aiha, Beka, Khirbet el-Knese, Yanta, Deir el-Ashayr, Rahle, Burkush, and Er-Rime.

More info

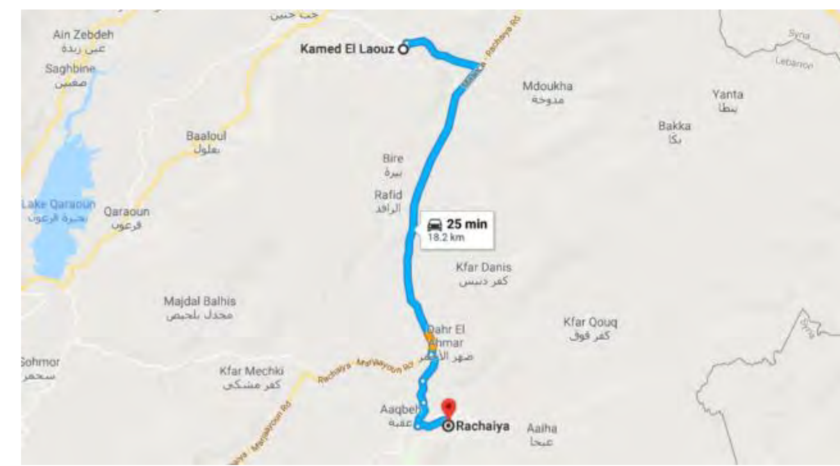
- Panoramic view of Mount Hermon
- Panoramic view of Rashaya

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Map of Mount Hermon/Rashaya

Location of Mount Hermoun



Road map from Kamid Al-Lawz to Mount Hermon/Rashaya

© DiscoverLebanon

General View of Mount Hermon








MOUNT HERMON/RASHAYA AL-WADI

Visits

- Significant cultural heritage site, temples circled Hermon (Hebbariya, Ain Hirsha, Ain Libbaya, Nebi Safa, Akbeh, Aiha, Bakka, Khirbet el-Knese, Yanta, Deir el-Ashayr, Rahle, Burkush, and Er-Rime).
- Abel Sarcophagus
- Mar Moussa Al-Habashi Church
- Rashaya Old Souk – panoramic view
- Independence Citadel of Rashaya – panoramic view



View of Rashaya and Mount Hermon





Mar Moussa Al-Habashi Church



Rashaya Old Souk

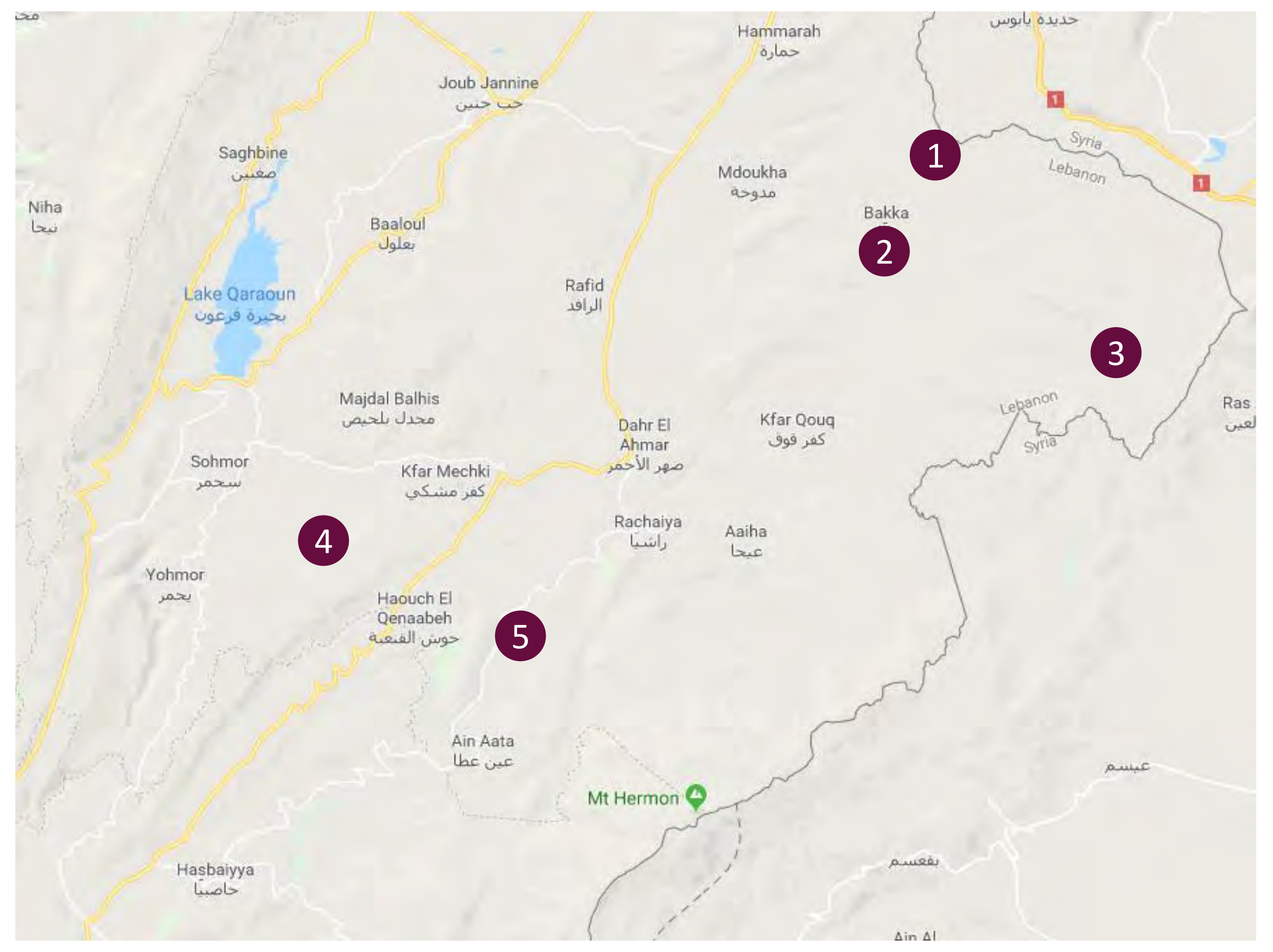
General View of Rashaya

SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

1. **The Temple of Yanta:** Roman Temple
2. **The Temple of Bakka:** Roman Temple
3. **The Temple of Deir El-Ashayer:** Greco-Roman Temple
4. **The Temple of Nabi Safa:** Roman Temple
5. **The Temple of Ain Harsha:** Roman Temple

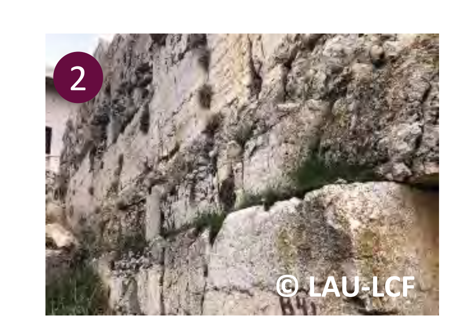
"Mount Hermon has the largest number of temples ever to be found in any region in the world. Among the temples located in the western slope of the mountain, there is one in a place called Jabal Khan, another near the village 'Aqbe, in addition to temples found in the villages of Hebbariyeh, Nehi Safa, Bakka Yanta, 'Ayin Harsheh, and Deir El-'Ashayer. Remains of temples were also found in 'Ayha, 'Ayin Lebbayam, Kfarqouk, Borqosh, Mdoukha, Raqleh, Helwa, 'Ayn Qania, Al-Ram, and others, in addition to those found on the eastern slope overlooking the Syrian territories."

"The Roots of Christianity in Lebanon"
by Dr. Antoine Khoury Harb

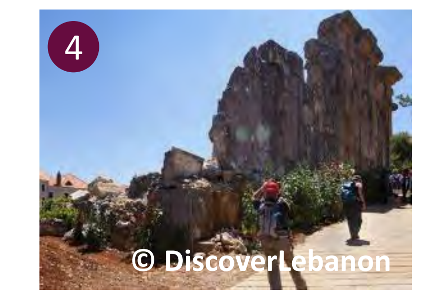


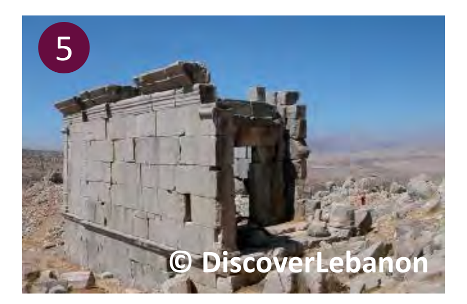
Location of temples in Mount Hermon











SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON



1 THE TEMPLE OF YANTA:

There are ruins of an impressively sized and positioned Roman temple in the area that is presumed to have been built on the site of a forerunning Semitic temple. The ruins lie on either side of the road and are sparse but retain some upright stones. Around the site are remnants of ancient habitation and tombs.

Back to the slide "*SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON*"

Location of Yanta












SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

2 THE TEMPLE OF BAKKA:

The ruins of a Roman temple in the village are included in a group of Temples of Mount Hermon. George Taylor classified it as a prostylos temple and noted that the north and south walls remained standing and the podium floor had survived.

The site has been heavily damaged by local construction of houses over the site. The temple featured an underground crypt that was accessible via one of the houses that had been built over it.

Edward Robinson suggested that word *bakka* could have derived from the later Arabic meaning of *crowd*. Others have linked it to the Hebrew word *bikha* meaning *plain.*

Back to the slide "*SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON*"



Location of Bakka





SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

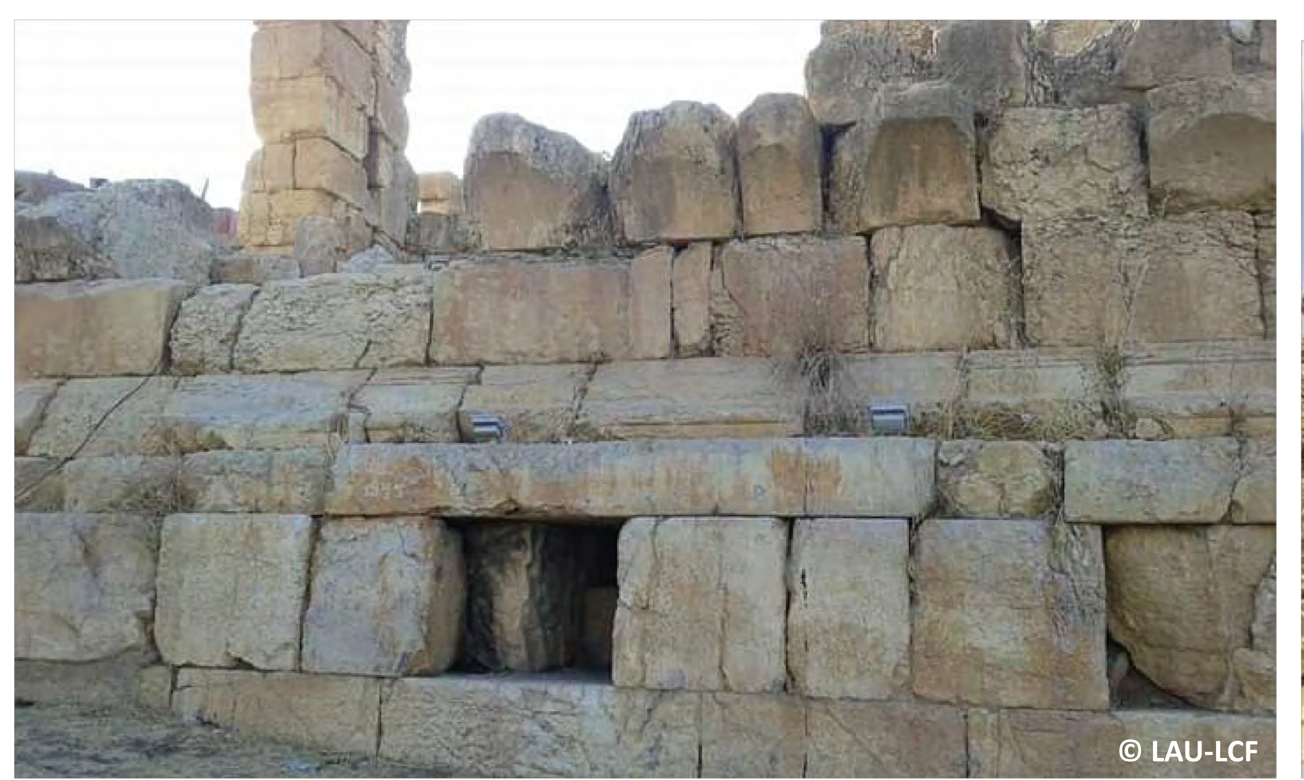
3 THE TEMPLE OF DEIR EL-ASHAYER:

The village is near toa the remains of a substantial Greco-Roman style temple dedicated to unknown deities, with 30 metres (long foundations and columns re-used in local construction. A Greek inscription was found noting that a bench was installed *"in the year 242, under Beeliabos, also called Diototos, son of Abedanos, high priest of the gods of Kiboreia"*. Julien Alquot argued that the bench had liturgical uses as a mobile throne. The era of the gods of Kiboreia is not certain, as is their location which is not conclusively to be identified with Deir El Aachayer, but was possibly the Roman sanctuary or the name of a settlement in the area. It has been suggested that the name Kiboreia was formed from the Aramaic word *kbr*, meaning a *"place of great abundance"*



Back to the slide "*SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON*"

Location of Deir El-Ashayer





SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

4 THE TEMPLE OF NABI SAFA:

The temple is situated in the village of KfarMishki. In 1852 the village was visited by an orientalist by the name of Edward Robinson. He later wrote about his visit, mentioning the existence of two Roman sarcophagi in the area. One may see the ruins of a Roman temple having connection with a group of sanctuaries on Mount Hermon. This temple, seventy feet by thirty, has suffered a great deal of damage, but from its position facing the splendid Mount Hermon, it offers a unique and unparalleled spectacle. George Taylor spoke of the alignment of the doorway in relation to the Mountain. The blocks of stone used in the construction are a yard thick, skillfully hewn and finished. The pediment is attractive and elegant. The only wall still standing with its pilasters is the one on the north side. Impressive columns embellish the entrance on the western side and there one can see an altar and a stairway leading to an underground chamber. It is supposed that the temple was once used as a sanctuary dedicated to the prophet Safa, En-Nabi Safa, the Pure, descendant of Jacob. His honorable body is believed to lie somewhere in the grounds accompanied by his spirit and an ancient tradition has it that one day a man with sufficiently deep faith will uncover it.



Location of Nabi Safa

Back to the slide "*SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON*"





SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

5 THE TEMPLE OF AIN HARCHA :

(About a forty-minute walk) along a rocky path, on a ridge-top to the west, higher than the village sits one of the best examples of a Roman temple in the vicinity of Mount Hermon. The temple of Ain Harcha can also be reached by walking down from the village of Ain Ata.

It was restored in 1938-1939 and dates from a Greek inscription on one of the blocks to 114-115 AD. The temple is built of limestone, opens to the east and blends in well with the landscape. The pediment and west wall are in particularly good condition and two columns bases show what supported the beams and roof. Carved blocks show busts of Selene, the moon goddess and Helios, the sun god. Around the site are remnants of ancient habitation and tombs.



Panoramic view of the Temple of Ain Harcha

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon

Location of Aiyn Harsheh



Back to the slide "*SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON*"









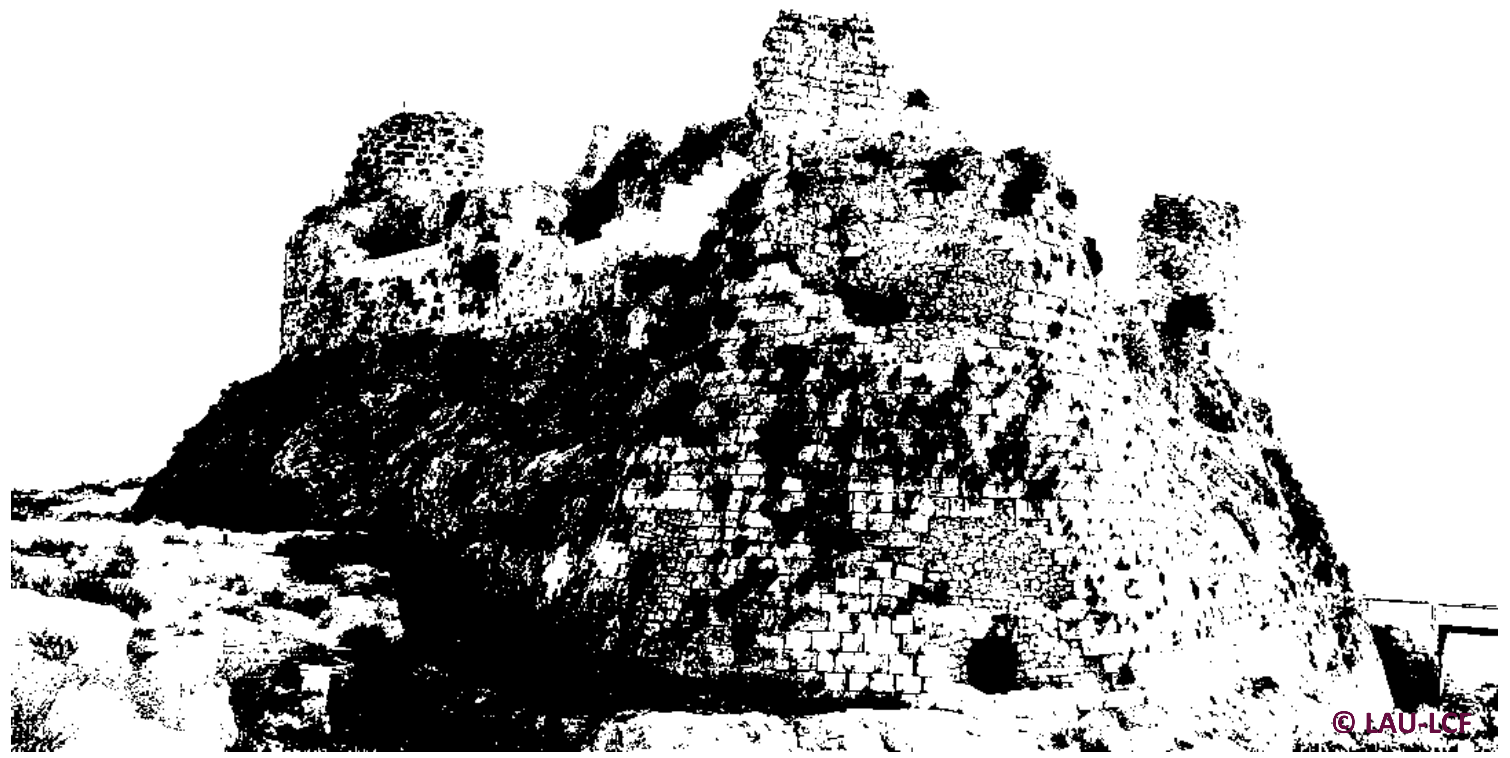

ITINERARY 1 – DAY 7: Arnoun – Tebnine

After spending the night in Mount Hermon/Rashaya Al-Wadi, DAY 7 leads to Arnoun and ends Tebnine as a stop/sleep-over.

Several places can be discovered such as:

- Castles
- Citadels

Go back to *ITINERARY 1* table











ARNOUN

THE BEAUFORT CASTLE, Arnoun: The castle was built as a defensive and strategic post for the Crusaders.

Consecutively used by the Ayyubids, the Mamluks and Amir Fakhreddine. It was later restored during the French mandate following an earthquake.

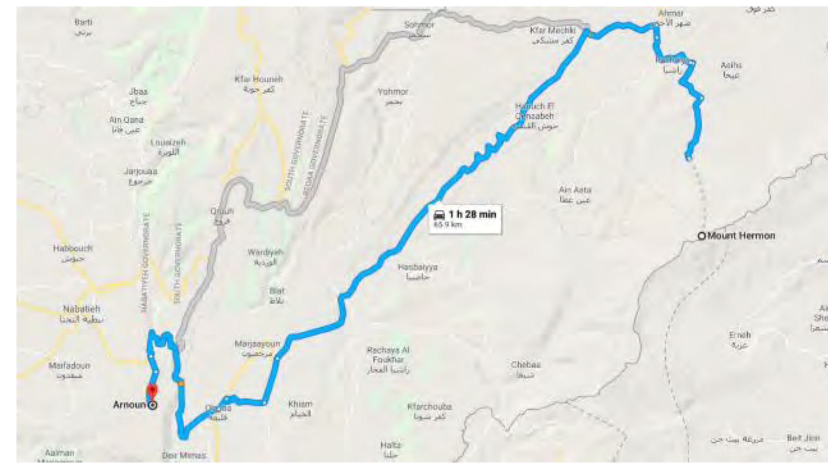
View Reference



Map of Arnoun



Location of Arnoun



Road map from Mount Hermon to Arnoun

The Beaufort Castle






ARNOUN

Visits

Visit the Beaufort Castle; is a Crusader fortress. There was a fortification on the site before it was captured by Fulk, King of Jerusalem, in 1139 and construction of the Crusader castle probably began soon after. Saladin captured Beaufort in 1190, but 60 years later Crusaders re-took it. In 1268 Sultan Baibars finally captured the castle for the Islamic forces.

Beaufort provides one of the few cases where a medieval castle proved of military value and utility also in modern warfare, as its late 20th-century history shows.

Aerial view of the Castle

TEBNINE

THE CITADEL OF TEBNINE (Toron) is a Crusader's Castle built in 1105. The fortress witnessed many battles throughout its history. The Crusader Castle has been used by many different factions and armies and conquerors over the years that include Alexander the Great, because of its strategic position overlooking miles of terrain. Many of the existing families of Tebnine have a background makeup of Phoenician, European and Arab due to ranging influences in the region over centuries.

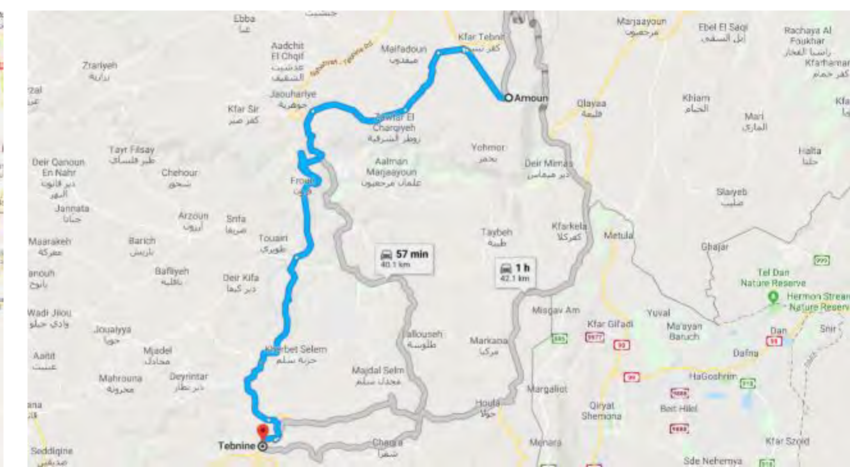
The city of Tebnine - panoramic view.



Map of Tebnine



Location of Tebnine



Road map from Arnoun to Tebnine



The Citadel Interior Arches



Citadel of Tebnine



TEBNINE

Visits

- The Citadel of Tebnine (Crusader Castle) – panoramic view.







Interior Arches

© LAU-LCF

Crusader's Ruins

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon








ITINERARY 1 – DAY 8: Qana – Tyre – Umm Al-Amad *(upon availability)*

After spending the night in Tebnine as a last stop, DAY 8 leads to Qana – Tyre and Umm Al-Amad *(upon availability)*

Several places can be discovered such as:

- Archaeological sites
- Natural carved stones

Go back to *ITINERARY 1* table








QANA

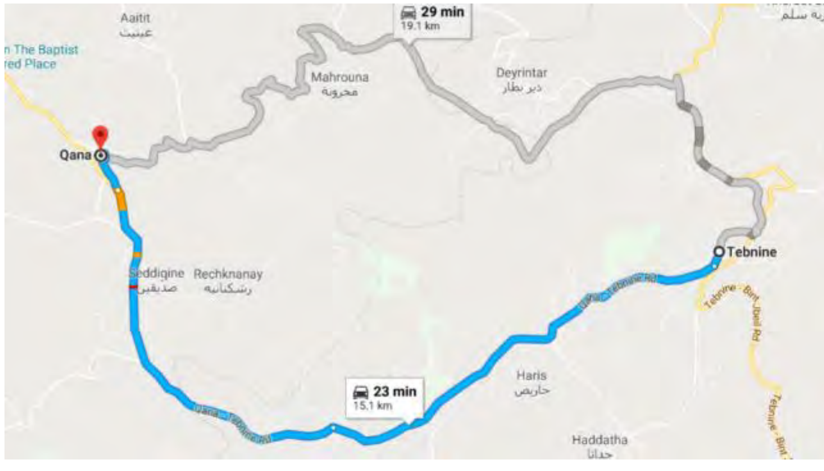
QANA (Cana), located at 13 km from Tyre, it is believed that this is the village where Jesus performed his first miracle, turning water into wine.

There are natural, rock-dug caves to be found in Qana that carry old inscriptions. It is said that Jesus Christ's first miracle took place at a wedding ceremony in one of these caves and also Bas-Relief of the Apostles engraved on the rocks of the site.



Map of Qana

Location of Qana



Road map from Tebnine to Qana

© Ministry of Tourism

Bas-Relief of the Apostles in Qana, a Christian pilgrimage site in Lebanon

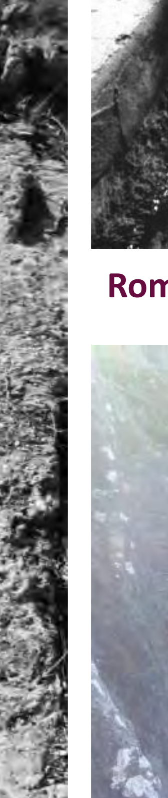
QANA

Visits

- The Roman water channel
- Tomb of Kind Hiram I
- Remains of Phoenician tombs
- The Qana Grotto – panoramic view
- Moussa Tiba Museum



Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon

Remains of Phoenician tombs





Roman Water Channel





Wine Jars











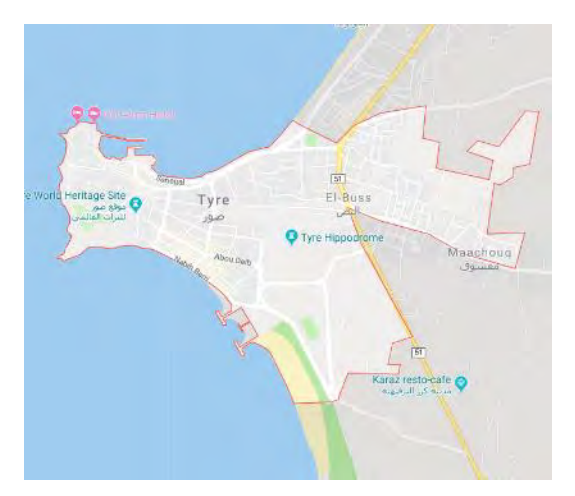
ITINERARY 1 – DAY 8: Qana – Tyre – Umm Al-Amad *(upon availability)*

TYRE

TYRE, built around 2700 BC, it is the home of Elissar, the Phoenician princess who founded Carthage, as well as the home of Europa who was abducted by Zeus disguised as a white bull.

Two main archaeological sites - Al Bass and Al Mina - are a testimony to its historical significance. Tyre was originally made up of two settlements – one on the mainland and the other on an island – the two cities are related to a causeway.

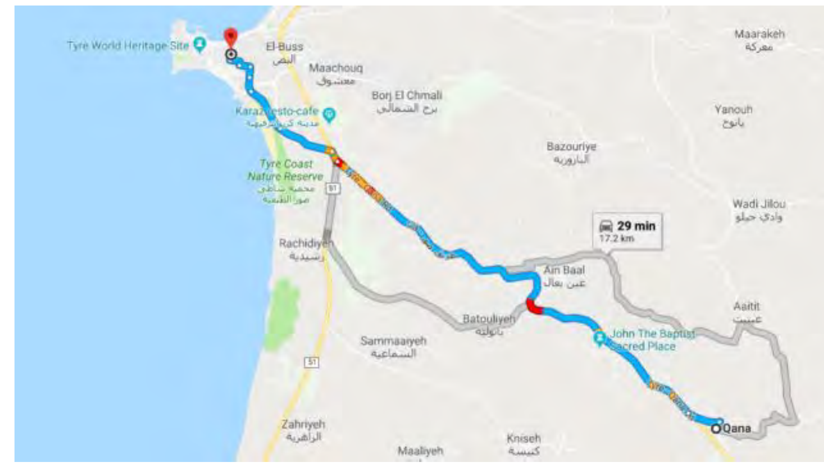
Moreover, there is a Phoenician Museum in Tyre, a patrimonial and maritime museum relating the history of ancient Tyre and its relation with the sea.



Map of Tyre



Location of Tyre



Road map from Qana to Tyre

© LAU-LCF

Al-Bass Archaeological Site










TYRE

Visits

- Two main archeological sites – Al-Bass and Al-Mina – are testimony to its historical significance:
  - Al-Bass – panoramic view
  - Monuments of Tyre – panoramic view
  - Monumental Archway – panoramic view
  - Hypodrome of Tyre – panoramic view
- The Phoenician Museum

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Necropolis dating back to the Roman Period



Hippodrome from Al-Bass Site

© LAU-LCF

Roman Road in Al-Mina Site

UMM AL-AMAD

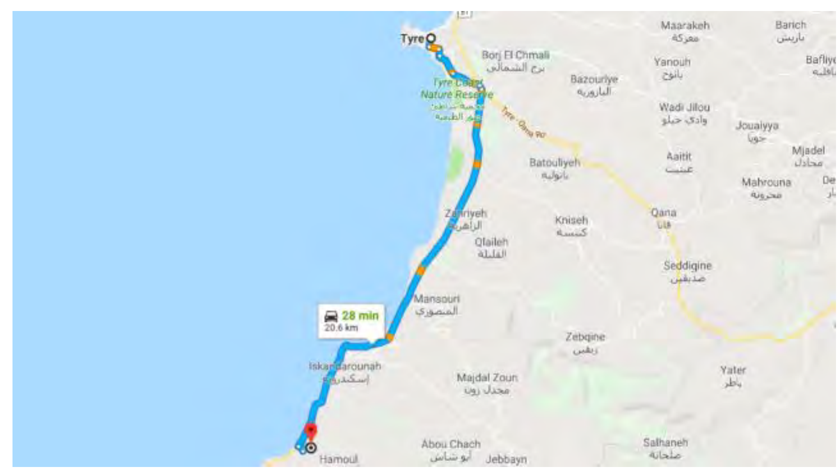
UMM AL-AMAD as a Phoenician city encompasses layers of tangible Greek civilization artifacts witnessed by (archeological findings) at the eastern shoulder of the Naqoura Sea- south Lebanon. Umm Al-Amad was discovered by a French explorer in 1772, though the first excavations didn't take place until 1861. The city of more than 60,000 square meters still bears witness to an important historical period and tells of architectural art and precision in engraving and sculpture with tools dating back to the Iron Age, which was named after the discovery of iron nearly 3,000 years ago. Umm Al-Amad's two temples were built roughly between 287 and 222 B.C.



Map of Umm Al-Amad



Location of Umm Al-Amad



Road map from Tyre to Umm Al-Amad

© LAU-LCF

Phoenicians' Ruins

UMM AL-AMAD

Visits

- Encompasses layers of tangible Greek civilization artifacts: the city was a religious center for a Phoenician cult, especially that of the Phoenician God Baal Hamon, whose memory lives on in a nearby valley known as Wadi Hamol (the Valley of Hamol). The site still contains the remains of two important temples, as well as other buildings, dating back to the second century and third century B.C., and represents the last of the Phoenician culture under the rule of the Greeks. Several steles bearing Phoenician inscriptions were discovered on the site, and an important sundial stone





Remains of Phoenicians' Traces

© LAU-LCF













ITINERARY 2 – *A Coastal Line Route to the Interior then North*

This itinerary is composed of 8 days; starting from Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, and ending in Tripoli, north Lebanon. Passing by several cities and villages on the coastal line and the interior area of Lebanon as per the table below.

ITINERARY 2	DAY 1: Beirut – Echmoun – Sidon – Maghdouche – Sarafand – Tyre DAY 2: Umm Al-Amad *(upon availability)* – Qana – Tebnine DAY 3: Arnoun – Mount Hermon/Rashaya Al-Wadi DAY 4: Kamid Al-Lawz – Anjar – Chtaura DAY 5: Zahle – Ferzoul – Niha – Baalbek DAY 6: Hermel/Beqaa Valley – Al-Qoubaiyat DAY 7: Menjez – Arqa – Tripoli

LAU Lebanese American University | Louis Cardahi Foundation











ITINERARY 2 – DAY 1: Beirut – Echmoun – Sidon – Maghdouche – Sarafand – Tyre

The first day starts from Beirut and ends in Tyre. This itinerary is characterized by being a coastal line route passing by Echmoun – Sidon – Maghdouche and Sarafand

You can discover several places such as:

- Museums
- Archaeological sites and ruins from different civilizations
- Religious landmarks
- Historical places

Go back to *ITINERARY 2* table











ITINERARY 2 – DAY 1: Beirut – Echmoun – Sidon – Maghdouche – Sarafand – Tyre

BEIRUT

BEIRUT, the capital and the largest city of Lebanon, has hosted successive historic periods of major powers and civilizations in the Mediterranean and West Asia. It has layers of Phoenician, Roman, Byzantine, Mameluke, Ottoman and French mandate periods. Today's archaeological highlights include a Phoenician port, several Roman remains of a hippodrome, baths and temples.



Map of Beirut



Location of Beirut



Beirut Aerial View



Beirut National Museum



Rawsha Rock

BEIRUT

Visits

- Al-Umari Mosque of Beirut – interior panoramic view
- Beirut National Museum – interior panoramic views: 1 – 2 - 3
- AUB Archaeological Museum
- Heliopolis
- Lebanese Prehistoric Museum
- Sursock Palace/Sursock Museum – exterior panoramic view
- The Grand Serail (interior panoramic view – exterior panoramic view) / Roman Baths Garden – panoramic view
- Amir Assaf Mosque
- Al-Omari Mosque/St. John The Baptist Cathedral
- Mohammad Al-Amin Mosque - interior panoramic view
- Saint George Maronite Cathedral – interior panoramic view
- Saint Georges Greek Orthodox Cathedral – interior panoramic view
- Nejmeh Square/Abed Clock Tower
- Martyr's Square/Statue of the Martyr's
- Wadi Abu Jamil and The Maghen Abraham
- A Walk in Gourand Street
- Garden of Forgiveness, Archaeological Area

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Sursock Palace/Sursock Museum



Al-Omari Mosque



Roman Baths

ECHMOUN

ECHMOUN, a Phoenician temple dedicated to the god of healing (hence the name), is located at the entrance of Sidon. It is considered one of the best-preserved Phoenician temples in Lebanon.

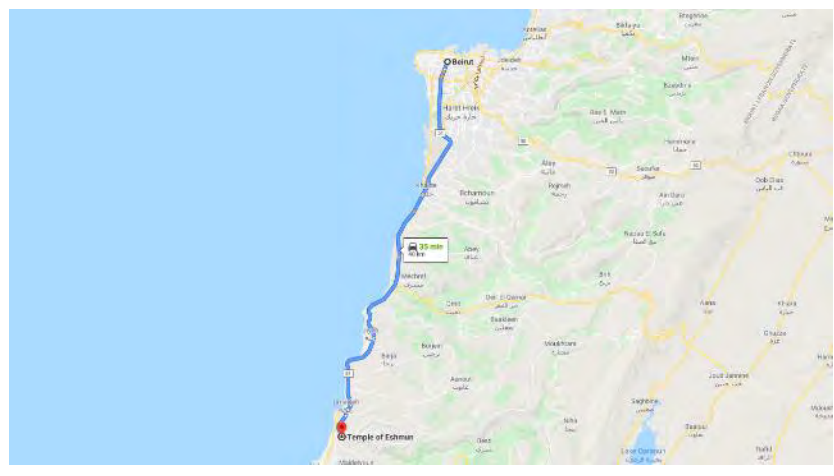
Temple Echmoun – panoramic view



Map of Echmoun



Location of Echmoun



Road map from Beirut to Echmoun

Ruins of Echmoun Temple







ECHMOUN

Visits

- One of the best-preserved Phoenician temples in Lebanon. Building it was begun at the end of the 6th century BCE during the reign of Eshmunazar II, and later additions were made up into the Roman period. It was excavated by Maurice Dunand in 1963-1978. Many votive offerings were found in the form of statues of persons healed by the god, especially babies and young children.




Ruins of Echmoun Temple

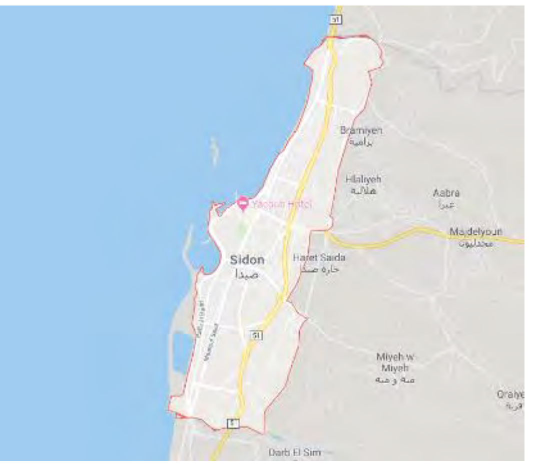


Mosaic in Echmoun Temple

SIDON

SIDON is known for its multi-layered sea citadel. Founded in the fourth millennium BC, it is one of three major port city-states of the Canaanite/Phoenician epoch, cited 35 times in the Old Testament. In its long history, it has been home to the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Crusaders, Mamluks and Ottomans.

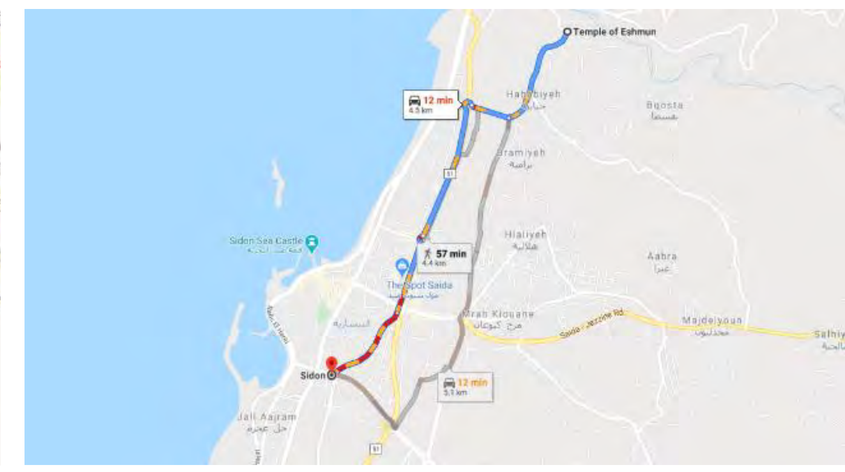
Sidon's Sea Castle - Panoramic view



Map of Sidon



Location of Sidon



Road map from Echmoun to Sidon

Sidon's Sea Castle

SIDON

Visits

- Sidon's Sea Castle
- Temple of Echmoun – panoramic view
- Old Souk
- Debbane Palace
- Sidon Soap Museum - panoramic view
- Khan Al-Franj – panoramic view
- Bahaa El-Dine and Al-Kikhiya Mosques
- St. Nicolas Church
- Al-Omari Mosque – panoramic view





Bahaa El-Dine and Al-Kikhiya Mosques



The Sea Citadelle



The Sea Citadelle



Khan Al-Franj



St. Nicolas Church











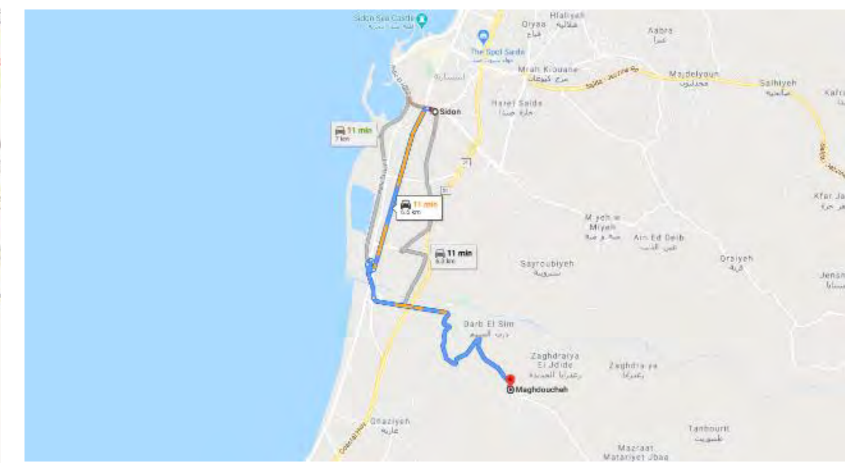

MAGHDOUCHE

MAGHDOUCHE is known for Our Lady of the Guard Church containing a grotto, believed to be the place where the Virgin Mary stayed while Jesus visited the surrounding cities of the south.



Map of Maghdouche

Location of Maghdouche



Road map from Sidon to Maghdouche

© Ministry of Tourism

Lady of the Guard Church

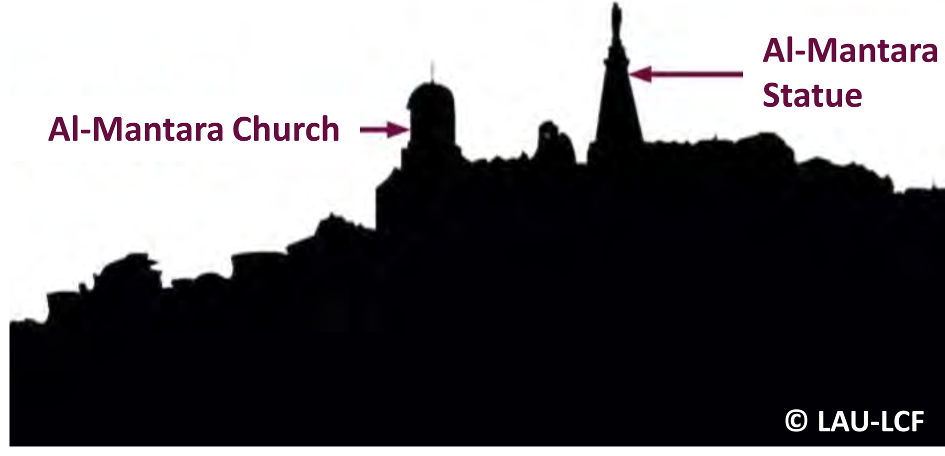
MAGHDOUCHE

Visits

- Known for Our Lady of the Guard Church containing a grotto – interior panoramic view
- Al-Mantara Church – panoramic view
- Al-Mantara Cave
- Al-Mantara Statue – panoramic view
- Burried Byzantine Ruins




Al-Mantara Statue



Location of Al-Mantara Church and Al-Mantara Statue



Al-Mantara Church

SARAFAND

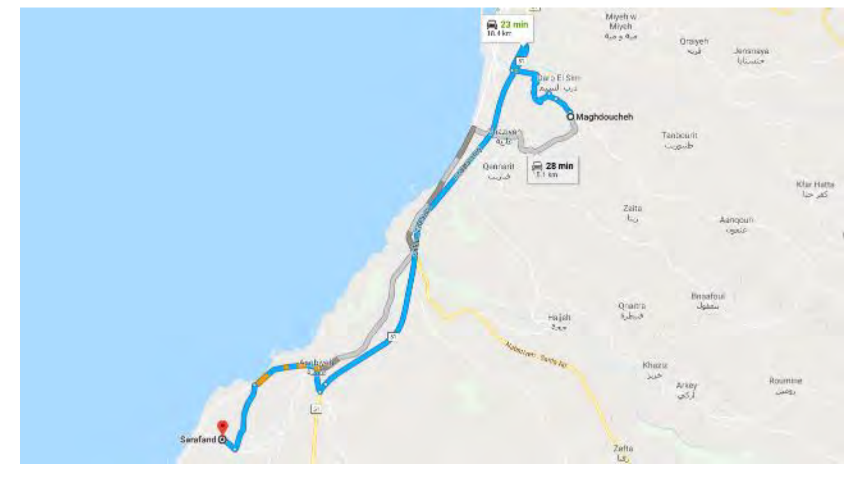
SARAFAND (Sarepta), is a major Phoenician site located between Sidon and Tyre. Presently it is now a fishing shore and a touristic attraction because of its restaurants. The site was well studied and excavated in 1969-1974, by the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania. Some of the finds are now in the National Museum of Beirut.



Map of Sarafand



Location of Sarafand



Road map from Maghdouche to Sarafand



Abbas Al-Khodr Mosque



Shrine of Abu Abou Zar al-Ghafari

SARAFAND

Visits

- Major Phoenician site located between Sidon and Tyre.
- Ottoman Harbor
- Shrine of Abu Abou Zar Al-Ghafari
- Mosque of Abbas Al-Khodr

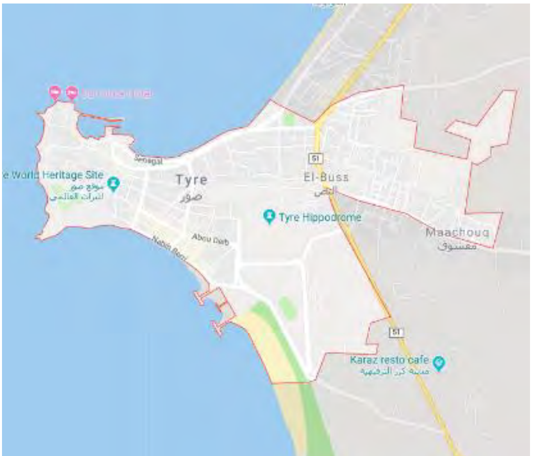
Ottoman Harbor

TYRE

TYRE, built around 2700 BC, it is the home of Elissar, the Phoenician princess who founded Carthage, as well as the home of Europa who was abducted by Zeus disguised as a white bull.

Two main archaeological sites - Al Bass and Al Mina - are a testimony to its historical significance. Tyre was originally made up of two settlements – one on the mainland and the other on an island – the two cities are related to a causeway.

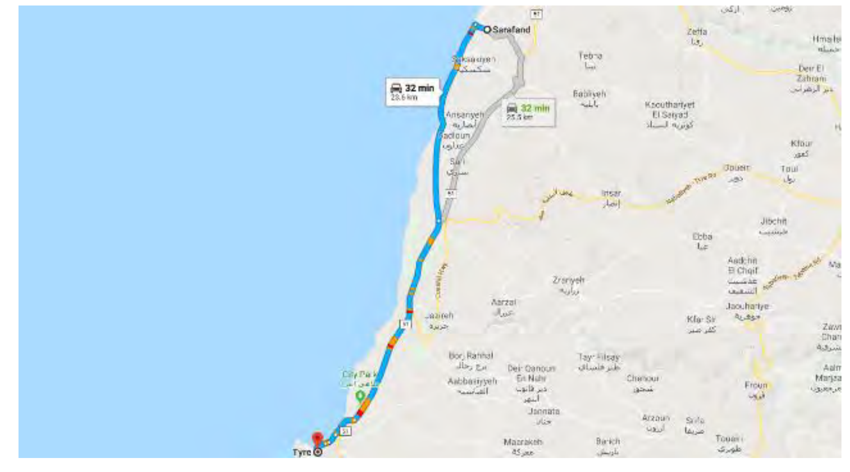
Moreover, there is a Phoenician Museum in Tyre, a patrimonial and maritime museum relating the history of ancient Tyre and its relation with the sea.



Map of Tyre



Location of Tyre



Road map from Sarafand to Tyre

Al-Bass Archaeological Site








TYRE

Visits

- Two main archeological sites – Al-Bass and Al-Mina – are testimony to its historical significance:
- Al-Bass – panoramic view
- Monuments of Tyre – panoramic view
- Monumental Archway – panoramic view
- Hypodrome of Tyre – panoramic view
- The Phoenician Museum

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Necropolis dating back to the Roman Period



Hippodrome from Al-Bass Site

© LAU-LCF

Roman Road in Al-Mina Site

ITINERARY 2 – DAY 2: Umm Al-Amad *(upon availability)* – Qana – Tebnine

MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Menjez
Al-Qoubaiyat
Arqa
Tripoli
Hermel/ Beqaa Valley
Baalbek
Niha
Ferzoul
Zahle
Chtaura
Beirut
Anjar
Kamid Al-Lawz
Echmoun
Sidon
Maghdouche
Mount Hermon/ Rashaya Al-Wadi
Sarafand
Arnoun
Tyre
Qana
Tebnine
Umm Al-Amad

After spending the night in Tyre, the second day leads to Umm Al-Amad, Qana and ending in Tebnine.

Several places worth visiting, such as:

- Archaeological sites
- Museums
- Castles

Go back to *ITINERARY 2* table





Louis Cardahi Foundation







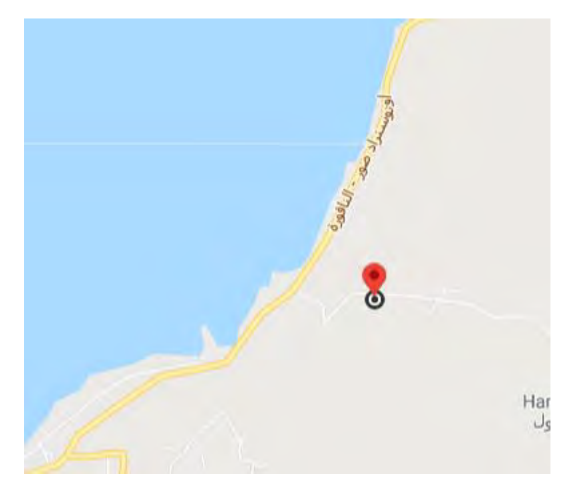




ITINERARY 2 – DAY 2: Umm Al-Amad *(upon availability)* – Qana – Tebnine

UMM AL-AMAD

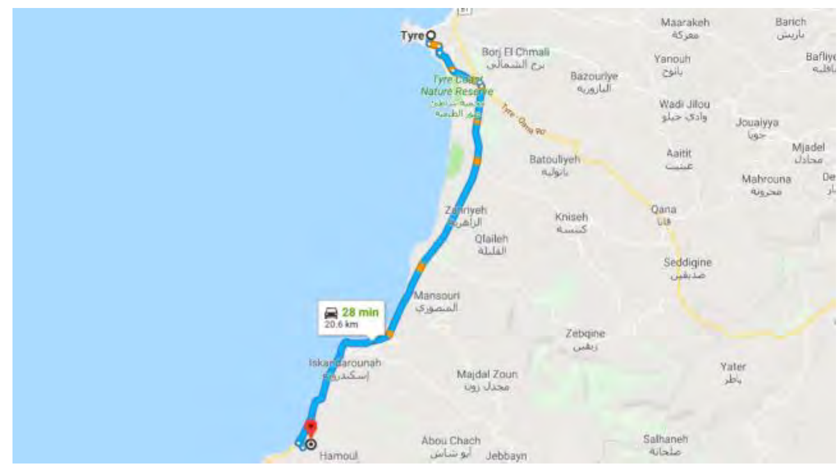
UMM AL-AMAD as a Phoenician city encompasses layers of tangible Greek civilization artifacts witnessed by (archeological findings) at the eastern shoulder of the Naqoura Sea- south Lebanon. Umm Al-Amad was discovered by a French explorer in 1772, though the first excavations didn't take place until 1861. The city of more than 60,000 square meters still bears witness to an important historical period and tells of architectural art and precision in engraving and sculpture with tools dating back to the Iron Age, which was named after the discovery of iron nearly 3,000 years ago. Umm Al-Amad's two temples were built roughly between 287 and 222 B.C.



Map of Umm Al-Amad



Location of Umm Al-Amad



Road map from Tyre to Umm Al-Amad

Phoenicians' Ruins

UMM AL-AMAD

Visits

- Encompasses layers of tangible Greek civilization artifacts: the city was a religious center for a Phoenician cult, especially that of the Phoenician God Baal Hamon, whose memory lives on in a nearby valley known as Wadi Hamol (the Valley of Hamol). The site still contains the remains of two important temples, as well as other buildings, dating back to the second century and third century B.C., and represents the last of the Phoenician culture under the rule of the Greeks. Several steles bearing Phoenician inscriptions were discovered on the site, and an important sundial stone





Remains of Phoenicians' Traces

QANA

QANA (Cana), located at 13 km from Tyre, it is believed that this is the village where Jesus performed his first miracle, turning water into wine.

There are natural, rock-dug caves to be found in Qana that carry old inscriptions. It is said that Jesus Christ's first miracle took place at a wedding ceremony in one of these caves and also Bas-Relief of the Apostles engraved on the rocks of the site.



Map of Qana

Location of Qana

Road map from Umm Al-Amad to Qana

Bas-Relief of the Apostles in Qana, a Christian pilgrimage site in Lebanon

QANA

Visits

- The Roman water channel
- Tomb of Kind Hiram I
- Remains of Phoenician tombs
- The Qana Grotto – panoramic view
- Moussa Tiba Museum


Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Remains of Phoenician tombs

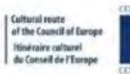




Roman Water Channel



Wine Jars

TEBNINE

THE CITADEL OF TEBNINE (Toron) is a Crusader's Castle built in 1105. The fortress witnessed many battles throughout its history. The Crusader Castle has been used by many different factions and armies and conquerors over the years that include Alexander the Great, because of its strategic position overlooking miles of terrain. Many of the existing families of Tebnine have a background makeup of Phoenician, European and Arab due to ranging influences in the region over centuries.

The city of Tebnine - panoramic view.

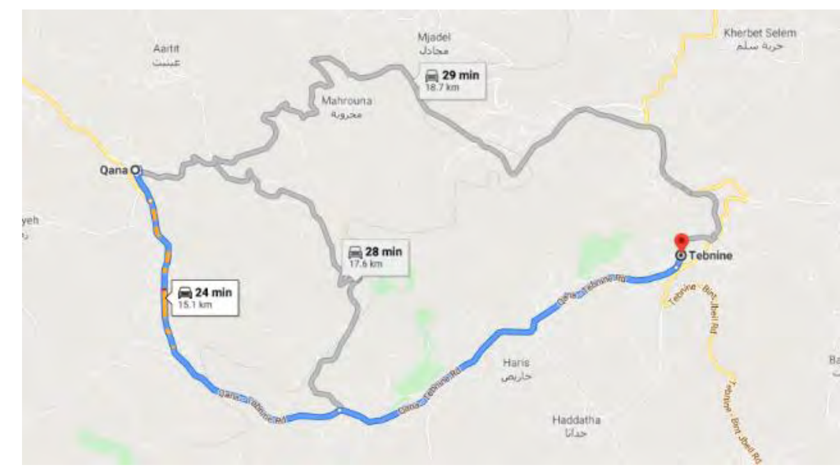
Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Map of Tebnine



Location of Tebnine



Road map from Qana to Tebnine



The Citadel Interior Arches



Citadel of Tebnine

TEBNINE

Visits

- The Citadel of Tebnine (Crusader Castle) – panoramic view.

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon







Interior Arches

© LAU-LCF

Crusader's Ruins







ITINERARY 2 - DAY 3: Arnoun – Mount Hermon/Rashaya Al-Wadi

After spending the night in Tebnine, DAY 3 leads to Arnoun and ends in Mount Hermon/Rashaya Al-Wadi as a stop/sleep-over.

Several places can be visited such as:

- Castles
- Temples

Go back to *ITINERARY 2* table










ARNOUN

THE BEAUFORT CASTLE, Arnoun: The castle was built as a defensive and strategic post for the Crusaders.

Consecutively used by the Ayyubids, the Mamluks and Amir Fakhreddine. It was later restored during the French mandate following an earthquake.

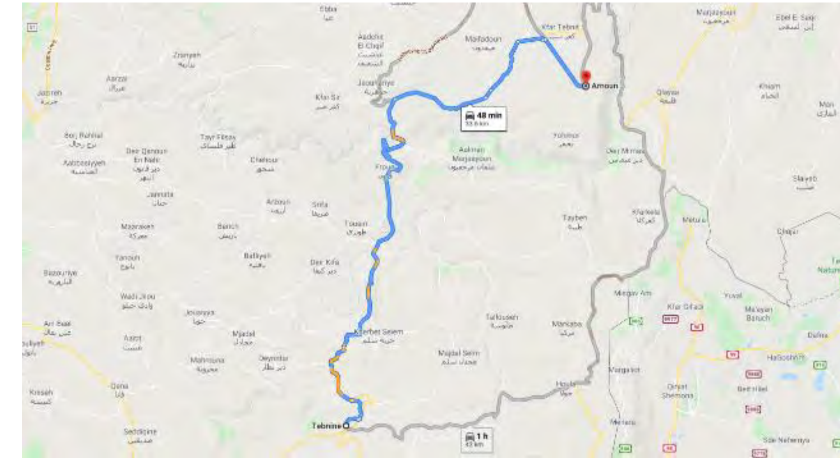
View Reference



Map of Arnoun



Location of Arnoun



Road map from Tebnine to Arnoun

© Ministry of Tourism

The Beaufort Castle

ARNOUN

Visits

Visit the Beaufort Castle; is a Crusader fortress. There was a fortification on the site before it was captured by Fulk, King of Jerusalem, in 1139 and construction of the Crusader castle probably began soon after. Saladin captured Beaufort in 1190, but 60 years later Crusaders re-took it. In 1268 Sultan Baibars finally captured the castle for the Islamic forces.

Beaufort provides one of the few cases where a medieval castle proved of military value and utility also in modern warfare, as its late 20th-century history shows.

Aerial view of the Castle

MOUNT HERMON/RASHAYA

MOUNT HERMON/RASHAYA region is a significant cultural heritage site in the eastern mountain terrain. The temples which circled Hermon were oriented to the cone-shaped tip of Kasr Es-Sebayb, the highest point of the mountain and the site of a sacred enclosure in Roman and pre-Roman time. The temples which circle Hermon are, from the south: Hebbariya, Ain Harsha, Ain Libbaya, Nebi Safa , Akbeh, Aiha, Beka, Khirbet el-Knese, Yanta, Deir el-Ashayr, Rahle, Burkush, and Er-Rime.

More info

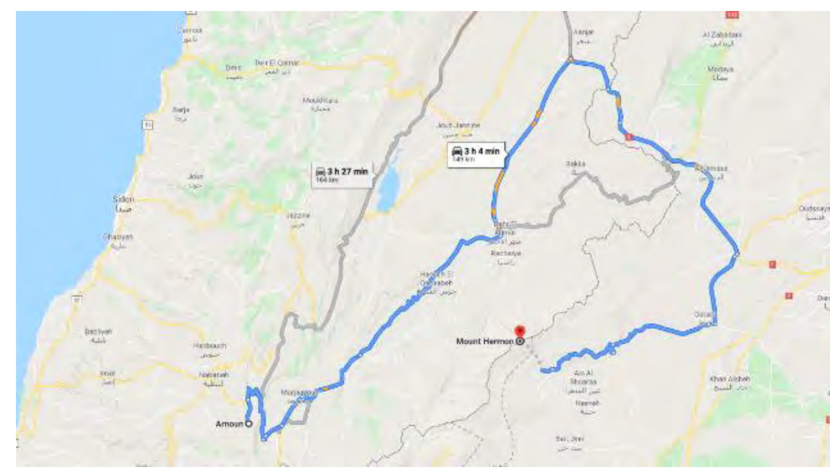
- Panoramic view of Mount Hermon
- Panoramic view of Rashaya



Map of Mount Hermon/Rashaya



Location of Mount Hermoun



Road map from Arnoun to Mount Hermon/Rashaya

General View of Mount Hermon

MOUNT HERMON/RASHAYA

Visits

- Significant cultural heritage site, temples circled Hermon (Hebbariya, Ain Hirsha, Ain Libbaya, Nebi Safa, Akbeh, Aiha, Bakka, Khirbet el-Knese, Yanta, Deir el-Ashayr, Rahle, Burkush, and Er-Rime).
- Abel Sarcophagus
- Mar Moussa Al-Habashi Church
- Rashaya Old Souk – panoramic view
- Independence Citadel of Rashaya – panoramic view

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon





View of Rashaya and Mount Hermon



Mar Moussa Al-Habashi Church



Rashaya Old Souk

General View of Rashaya





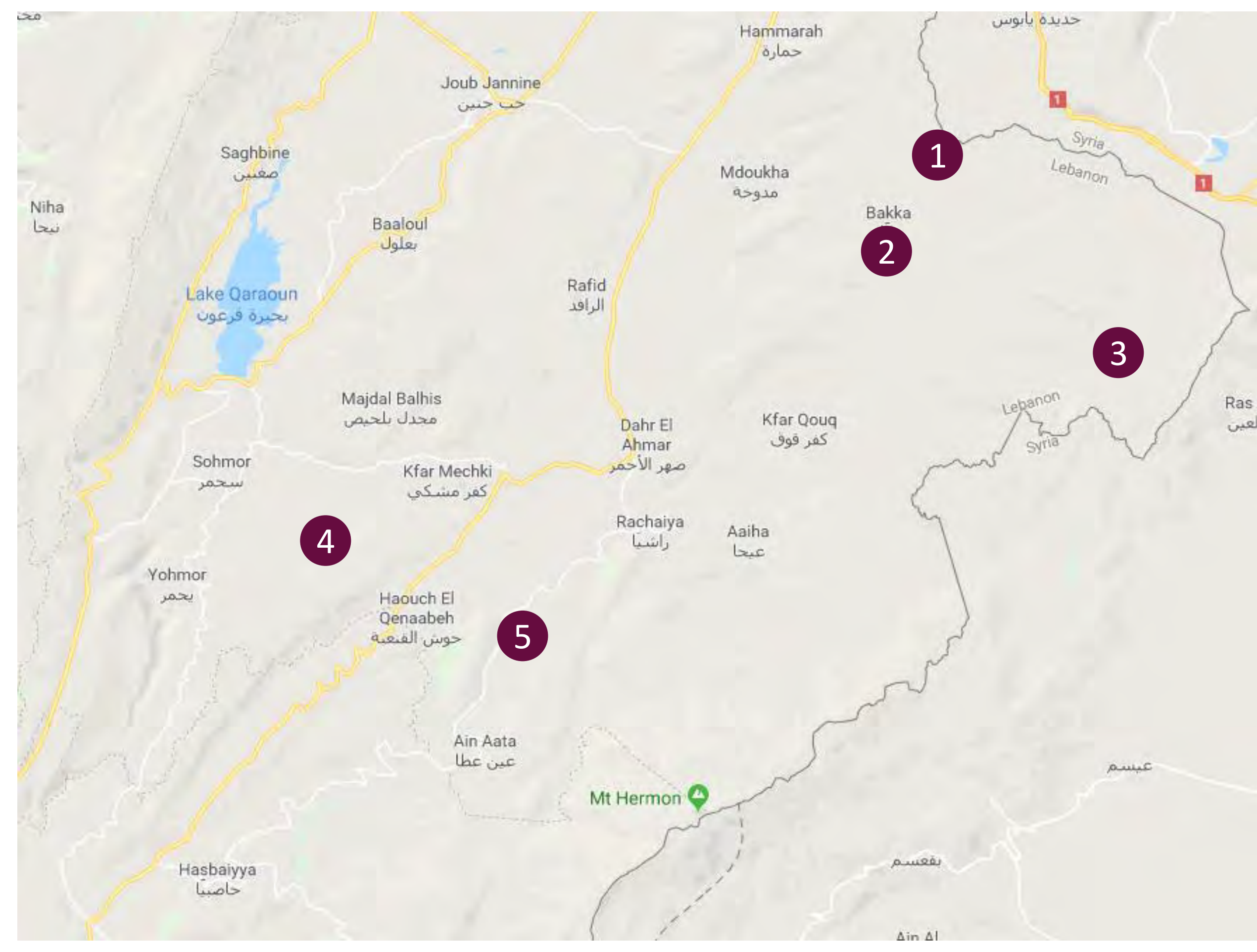



SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

1. **The Temple of Yanta:** Roman Temple
2. **The Temple of Bakka:** Roman Temple
3. **The Temple of Deir El-Ashayer:** Greco-Roman Temple
4. **The Temple of Nabi Safa:** Roman Temple
5. **The Temple of Ain Harsha:** Roman Temple

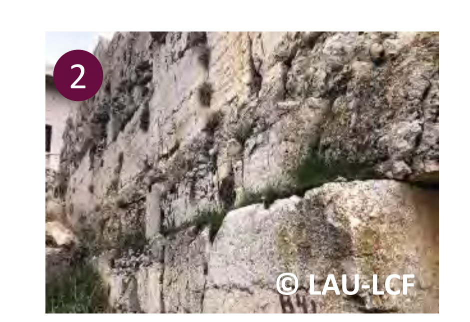
"Mount Hermon has the largest number of temples ever to be found in any region in the world. Among the temples located in the western slope of the mountain, there is one in a place called Jabal Khan, another near the village 'Aqbe, in addition to temples found in the villages of Hebbariyeh, Nehi Safa, Bakka Yanta, 'Ayin Harsheh, and Deir El-'Ashayer. Remains of temples were also found in 'Ayha, 'Ayin Lebbayam, Kfarqouk, Borqosh, Mdoukha, Raqleh, Helwa, 'Ayn Qania, Al-Ram, and others, in addition to those found on the eastern slope overlooking the Syrian territories."

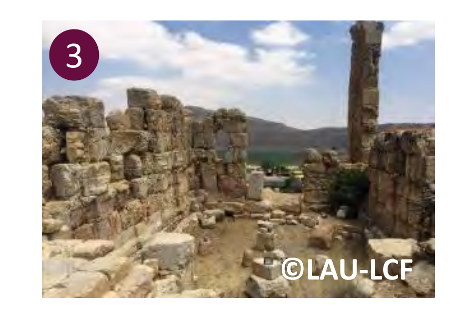
"The Roots of Christianity in Lebanon"
by Dr. Antoine Khoury Harb

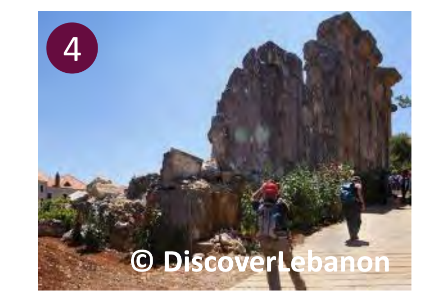


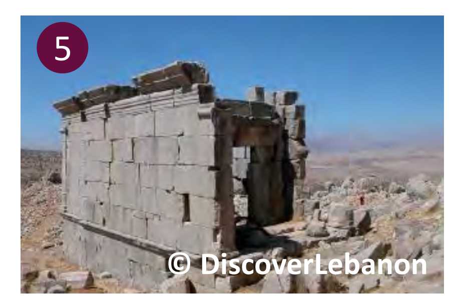
Location of temples in Mount Hermon











SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

1 THE TEMPLE OF YANTA:

There are ruins of an impressively sized and positioned Roman temple in the area that is presumed to have been built on the site of a forerunning Semitic temple. The ruins lie on either side of the road and are sparse but retain some upright stones. Around the site are remnants of ancient habitation and tombs.



Back to the slide "*SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON*"

Location of Yanta





SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

2 THE TEMPLE OF BAKKA:

The ruins of a Roman temple in the village are included in a group of Temples of Mount Hermon. George Taylor classified it as a prostylos temple and noted that the north and south walls remained standing and the podium floor had survived.

The site has been heavily damaged by local construction of houses over the site. The temple featured an underground crypt that was accessible via one of the houses that had been built over it.

Edward Robinson suggested that word *bakka* could have derived from the later Arabic meaning of *crowd*. Others have linked it to the Hebrew word *bikha* meaning *plain.*



Back to the slide "*SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON*"

Location of Bakka





SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

3 THE TEMPLE OF DEIR EL-ASHAYER:

The village is near toa the remains of a substantial Greco-Roman style temple dedicated to unknown deities, with 30 metres (98 ft) long foundations and columns re-used in local construction. A Greek inscription was found noting that a bench was installed *"in the year 242, under Beeliabos, also called Diototos, son of Abedanos, high priest of the gods of Kiboreia"*. Julien Alquot argued that the bench had liturgical uses as a mobile throne. The era of the gods of Kiboreia is not certain, as is their location which is not conclusively to be identified with Deir El Aachayer, but was possibly the Roman sanctuary or the name of a settlement in the area. It has been suggested that the name Kiboreia was formed from the Aramaic word *kbr*, meaning a *"place of great abundance"*



Back to the slide "*SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON*"

Location of Deir El-Ashayer





SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

4 THE TEMPLE OF NABI SAFA:

The temple is situated in the village of Kfarmishki. In 1852 the village was visited by an orientalist by the name of Edward Robinson. He later wrote about his visit, mentioning the existence of two Roman sarcophagi in the area. One may see the ruins of a Roman temple having connection with a group of sanctuaries on Mount Hermon. This temple, seventy feet by thirty, has suffered a great deal of damage, but from its position facing the splendid Mount Hermon, it offers a unique and unparalleled spectacle. George Taylor spoke of the alignment of the doorway in relation to the Mountain. The blocks of stone used in the construction are a yard thick, skillfully hewn and finished. The pediment is attractive and elegant. The only wall still standing with its pilasters is the one on the north side. Impressive columns embellish the entrance on the western side and there one can see an altar and a stairway leading to an underground chamber. It is supposed that the temple was once used as a sanctuary dedicated to the prophet Safa, En-Nabi Safa, the Pure, descendant of Jacob. His honorable body is believed to lie somewhere in the grounds accompanied by his spirit and an ancient tradition has it that one day a man with sufficiently deep faith will uncover it.



Location of Nabi Safa

Back to the slide "*SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON*"





SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

5 THE TEMPLE OF AIN HARCHA :

(About a forty-minute walk) along a rocky path, on a ridge-top to the west, higher than the village sits one of the best examples of a Roman temple in the vicinity of Mount Hermon. The temple of Ain Harcha can also be reached by walking down from the village of Ain Ata.

It was restored in 1938-1939 and dates from a Greek inscription on one of the blocks to 114-115 AD. The temple is built of limestone, opens to the east and blends in well with the landscape. The pediment and west wall are in particularly good condition and two columns bases show what supported the beams and roof. Carved blocks show busts of Selene, the moon goddess and Helios, the sun god. Around the site are remnants of ancient habitation and tombs.



Panoramic view of the Temple of Ain Harcha

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon

Location of Aiyn Harsheh

Back to the slide "*SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON*"









ITINERARY 2 - DAY 4: Kamid Al-Lawz – Anjar – Chtaura

After spending the night in Mount Hermon/Rashaya Al-Wadi, DAY 4 ends in Chtaura as a stop/sleep-over.

Passing by Kamid Al-Lawz and Anjar, several places can be visited such as:

- Archaeological sites
- Wineries

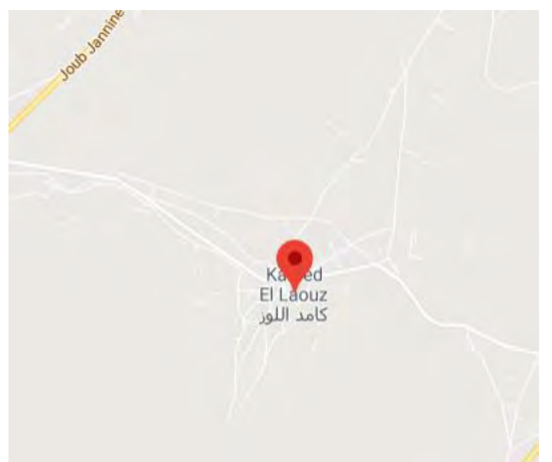
Go back to *ITINERARY 2* table

KAMID AL-LAWZ

KAMID AL LAWZ is one of the most important sites in Lebanon where archaeologists found and recorded many spectacular buildings, which are very important to the history of the region. Paleolithic material was found alongside Heavy Neolithic on through to the late Neolithic period, becoming a seat of state in the Bronze age and continuing until the Byzantine era, a German team from the University of Freiburg has conducted more recent excavations and studies.

Panoramic views of Kamid Al-Lawz (1 – 2)

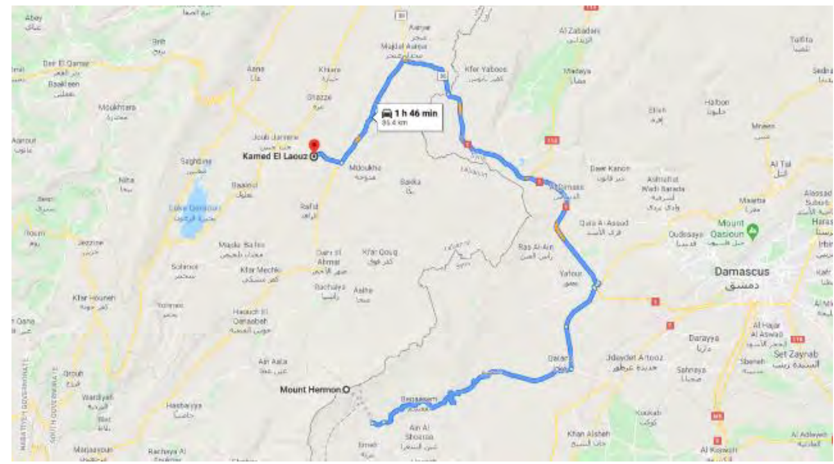
Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Map of Kamid Al-Lawz



Location of Kamid Al-Lawz



Road map from Mount Hermon/Rashaya to Kamid Al-Lawz

© LAU-LCF

Kamid Al-Lawz General View

KAMID AL-LAWZ

Visits

- Archaeological site containing ruins from Paleolithic and Neolithic eras, Early, Middle and Late Bronze ages, Iron (I-II-III) ages and from different civilizations (Roman and Byzantine and French Mandate)



Agricultural Land





Kamid Al-Lawz Archaeological Tell

ANJAR

ANJAR, was founded by Caliph Walid Ibn 'Abd al-Malak around 705 AD. The Umayyads built it and turned it into an important commercial center as it linked Damascus, Homs, Baalbek and the Palestinian plains. It shone for only 20-30 years. Anjar displays a good example of early Islamic architecture and its influence by Roman-Byzantine architecture. This is clearly visible in the various construction techniques and decorations in the city.

Anjar is a heritage site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).



Map of Anjar

Location of Anjar

Road map from Kamid Al-Lawz to Anjar

Umayyad city of Anjar

ANJAR

Visits

- Important commercial centers built by the Umayyads – panoramic view
- Early Islamic architecture monuments
- Bathhouse
- Little Palace
- Main Streets, colonnades and walls
- Mosque
- The Great Palace
- Qalaat Al-Hosn





Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



The market arcades



The souks

© LAU-LCF

The Great Palace













CHTAURA

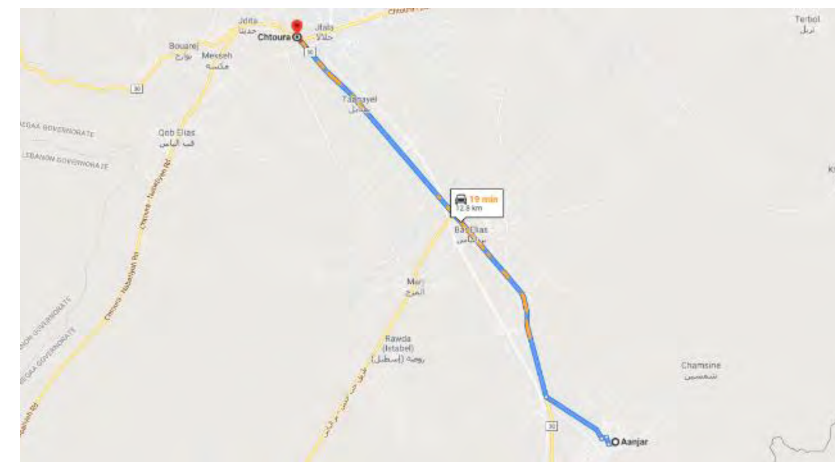
CHTAURA is the valley's hub for banking, transportation, and commerce, hotels, restaurants and (wineries since 1868).



Map of Chtaura



Location of Chtaura



Road map from Anjar to Chtaura

© LebanonUntravelled

Domaine des Tourelles Winery

CHTAURA

Visits

Wineries and factories since 1868:

- Domaine des Tourelles Winery
- Chateau Nakad
- Chateau Khoury
- Arak Touma Factory

Chtaura wineries



ITINERARY 2 - DAY 5: Zahle – Ferzoul – Niha – Baalbek

After spending the night in Chtaura, DAY 5 ends in Baalbek as a stop/sleep-over.

Passing by Zahle – Ferzoul and Niha, several places can be visited such as:

- Archaeological sites
- Wineries
- Caves

Go back to *ITINERARY 2* table

ZAHLE

ZAHLE is known as the "Bride of the Beqaa" for its geographical location and attractiveness, but also as "the City of Wine and Poetry“.

It is famous throughout Lebanon and the region for its pleasant climate, numerous riverside restaurants and quality arak.

General panoramic view of Zahle



Map of Zahle

Location of Zahle

Road map from Chtaura to Zahle

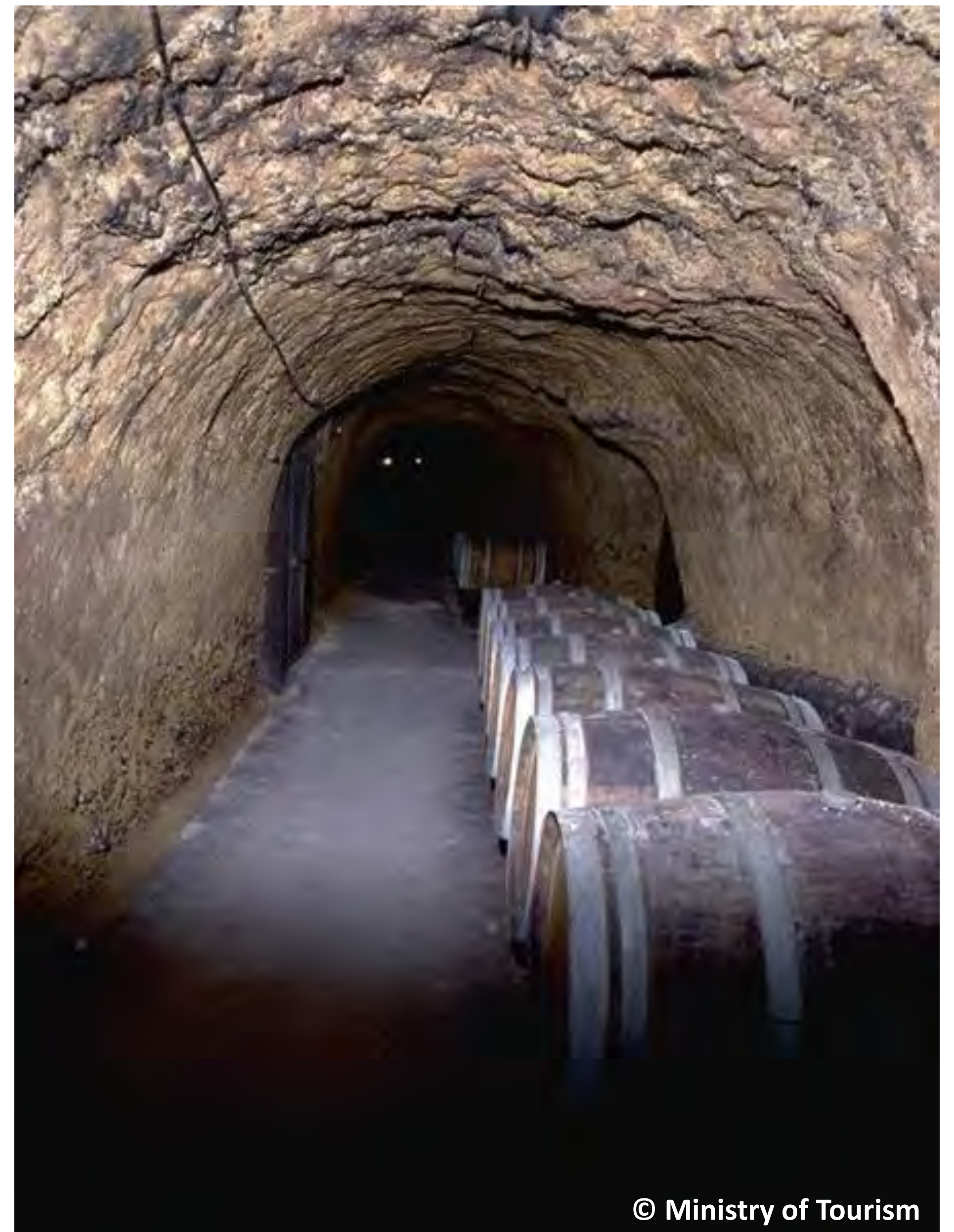
General View of Zahle

ZAHLE

Visits

Zahle is known for being the "City of Wine and Poetry"

- Chateau St. Thomas: Château St Thomas estate is a vineyard spreading over 65 hectares and a wine storehouse for fermentation and ageing. On this very land of the Beqaa valley, the Romans had once created the Temple of Bacchus, a tribute to the Roman god of wine. Throughout history, this land still shows unlimited potential to produce great wines.
- Chateau Ksara: was founded in 1857 by Jesuit Priests who produced the country's first dry red wine. Château Ksara is Lebanon's oldest, largest and most visited winery, attracting some 70,000 visitors per year (Chateau Ksara panoramic view)



Ksara Wineries



Shrine of Our Lady of Zahle



Chateau Ksara







FERZOUL

FERZOUL, a presence of foundations of a Roman temple dedicated to Apollo; many sculptures and engravings; a throne of kings or queens, etc.

There are many caves on a hill in the north-east of the village in the time of the Byzantines, they were transformed into hermitages for the anchorites; a whole region is known as the plural: The caves of the hermits.

General panoramic view of Ferzoul.

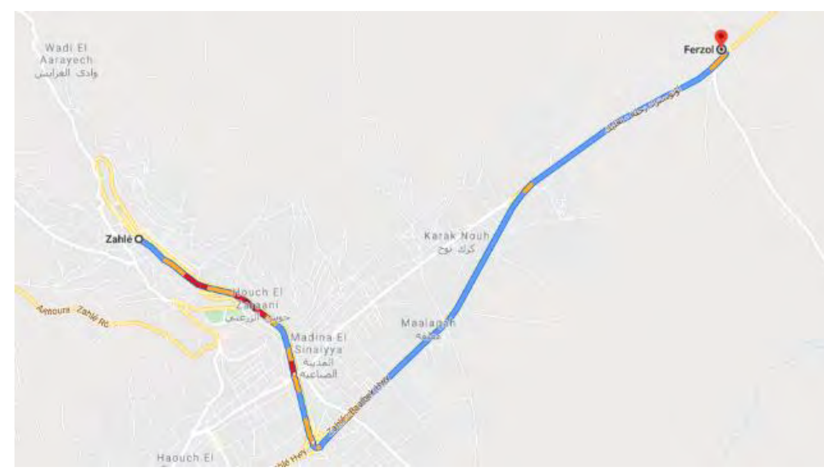
Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Map of Ferzoul



Location of Ferzoul



Road map from Zahle to Ferzoul

© DiscoverLebanon

Mountain of Ferzoul Habis

FERZOUL

Visits

- Caves transformed into hermitages (habis). The caves are a group of Byzantine, Roman, and Canaanite tombs and stone temples. They occur at regular intervals and are partly natural, partly man-made. All are cut in the shape of a dome and most of them have a reservoir dug in the center, a niche with a carved cone-like shape inside it. This probably represents a god sculpted in an archaic way according to local Semitic tradition.

Ferzoul Habis

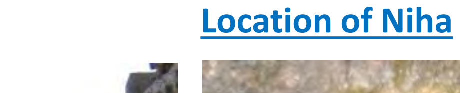
NIHA

NIHA Roman Temples are two temples dedicated to the Canaanite goddess of fertility *Atargatis* (Phoenician Astarte) the god of thunder lightning and rain, *Hadaranes*, and their son. It is also known for *Hosn Niha*, a structure of many layers the latest of which is a small a Byzantine Basilica.

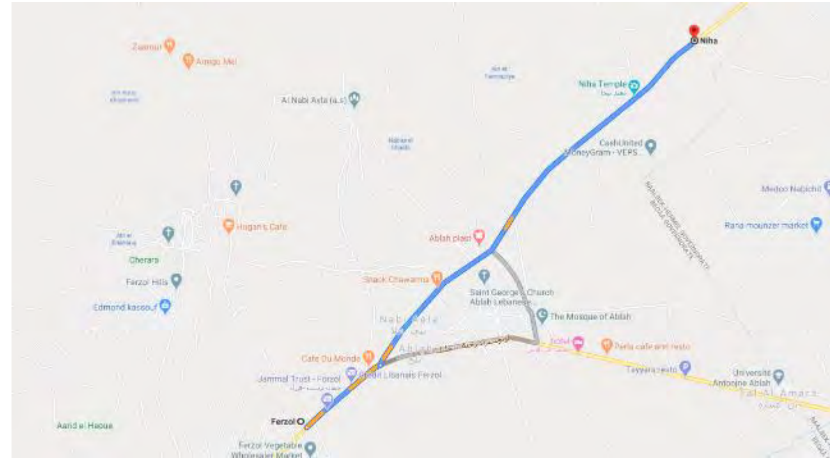


Map of Niha





Location of Niha



Road map from Ferzoul to Niha







The Big Roman Temple







ITINERARY 2 - DAY 5: Zahle – Ferzoul – Niha – Baalbek

NIHA

Visits

- Big and Small Roman Temples: Niha Roman Temples also known for Hosn Niha, a structure of many layers the latest of which is a small Byzantine Basilica – panoramic view.
- The Roman Fountain
- Roman Stone Quarry



Detail of Niha Temple



© LAU-LCF

Niha Small Temple



Detail of Niha Temple



Upper Grand Roman Temple

BAALBEK

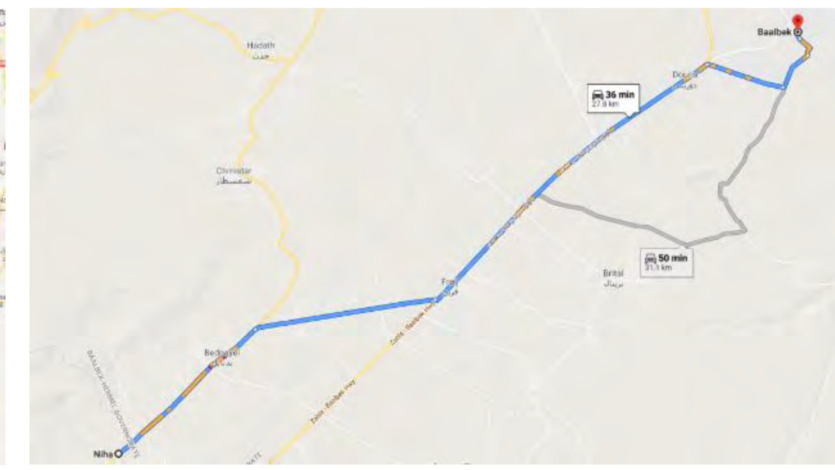
BAALBEK, founded by the Phoenicians, it was later conquered by the Macedonians who called it Heliopolis (always the City of the Sun) for assimilation between the god Sun and the Phoenician divinity Baal. Then it became a Roman colony under Augustus, preserving the new name. Today you can see three main buildings: the temple of Jupiter, the temple of Bacchus and the circular temple of Venus. A fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury is located on the hill of Sheikh Abdallah. inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).



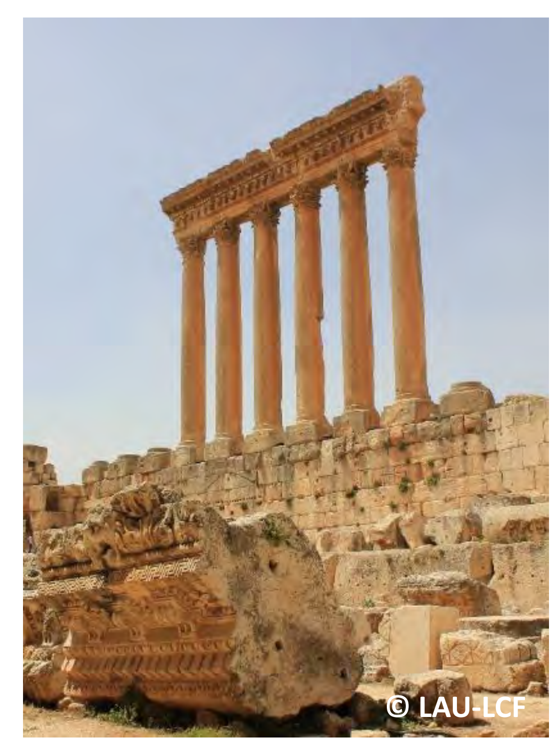
Map of Baalbek



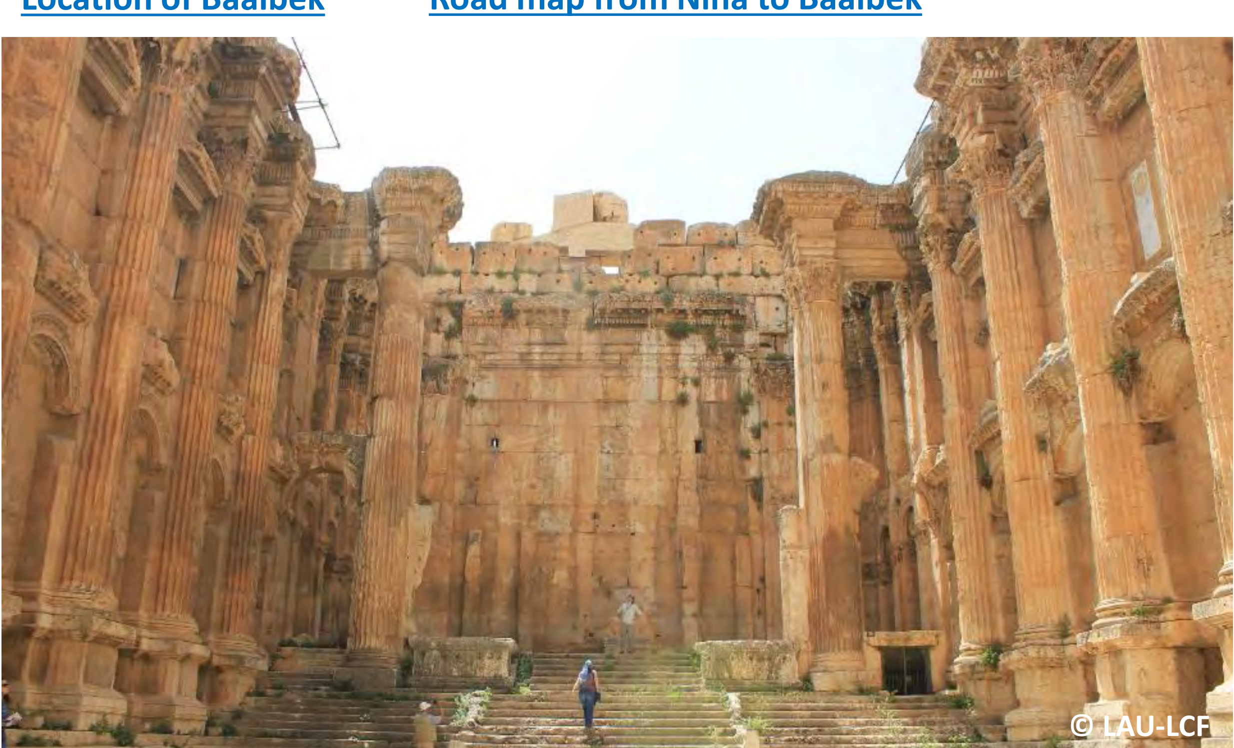
Location of Baalbek



Road map from Niha to Baalbek



Temple of Jupiter



Cella of the temple of Bacchus





BAALBEK

Visits

- Three main buildings: the Temple of Jupiter, the Temple of Bacchus and the circular Temple of Venus and a fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury. Panoramic views of several monuments (1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6) and stone of the pregnant woman – panoramic view
- Heliopolis
- The Umayyad Mosque or The Great Friday Mosque
- Qubbat Al Sa’idayn
- Qubbat Douris
- Ras El Ain Spring
- Ras Al Imam Al Hussein Mosque
- Al Barbara Mosque
- The Shrine of Al Sayyida Khawla - panoramic view
- Cathedral of Fakieh – panoramic view
- Our Lady of Beshwet – panoramic views (1 – 2)





Temple of Bacchus



Temple of Venus

The Umayyad Mosque or The Great Friday Mosque

ITINERARY 2 - DAY 6: Hermel/Beqaa Valley – Al-Qoubaiyat

After spending the night in Baalbek, DAY 6 ends in Al-Qoubaiyat as a stop/sleep-over.

Passing by Hermel/Beqaa Valley, you can visit:

- Temples and ruins from different civilizations
- Natural landscapes
- Caves

Go back to *ITINERARY 2* table



ITINERARY 2 - DAY 6: Hermel/Beqaa Valley – Al-Qoubaiyat

HERMEL/BEQAA VALLEY

KAMOUH EL-HERMEL, the pyramid has been suggested to date to the first or second century BC due to similarities with architecture of tower tombs of the late Seleucid era at Palmyra in Syria.

The pyramid sits on top of a hill that is clearly visible from a distance and has been fenced off to prevent damage.

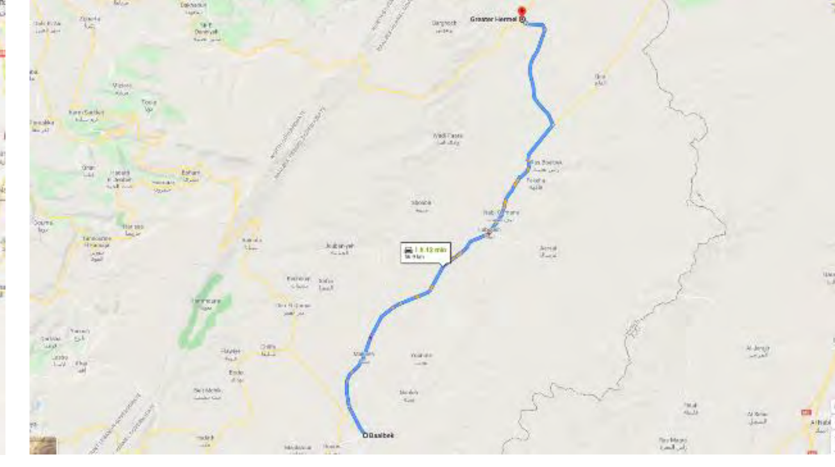


Map of Hermel





Location of Hermel



Road map from Baalbek to Hermel/Beqaa Valley

© DiscoverLebanon

Ancient Pyramid





HERMEL/BEQAA VALLEY

Visits

- An ancient pyramid located 6 Km south of Hermel – panoramic view
- St. Maron Monastery – panoramic view
- Scenic road trip
- Several temples located in the area of Beqaa such as (Qasr Banat, Iaat, Ferzoul Habis, Temnin El-Foka and Nahle).
- A Cuneiform Inscription at Wadi Brissa – panoramic views (1 – 2). It relates the deeds of Nabuchodonosor, king of Babylon, who came to Lebanon to procure cedar wood in order to worthily embellish his palace and the temple of the god Mardok (604 and 562 B.C.).
- Nahr el-Assi, the Orontes River – panoramic view.

St. Maron Monastery

SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA

1. **Iaat:** Corinthian column
2. **Nahle:** Roman temple
3. **Temnin el-Foka:** Roman temple
4. **Qasr Banat:** ancient temple (probably Roman)
5. **Ferzoul Habis:** Hermit caves

TYPOLOGY OF TEMPLES

The typology of the temples has been studied and they are generally divided into **Antae, Prostylos or Peripteral types**.

- **Antae** temples have side walls that extend to form a porch at the front or rear (or both) and terminated in pilasters that were called the *antae*.
- If columns were placed in advance of the walls or antae, the temple was termed **Prostylos**
- If columns surrounded the temple it was termed **Peripteral**. The peripteral type is thought to be the most perfect form of temple and the best preserved of this type is the Temple of Bacchus at Baalbek.

Location of some temples in the area of Beqaa

SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA

1 IAAT

The location of the Pillar is 4 miles (6 km) northwest of the Baalbek ruins, between the towns of Baalbeck and Chlifa.

At one point a plaque was installed on the northern side of the monument; however, it has been removed and no other history is known of the column, which is believed to be a funerary monument. The column is also widely believed in local legend to be related to St. Helena, but it is most likely a funerary monument.

Whilst technically not being a temple, Taylor suggested that the column might have been placed where it is as a victory column to mark the site of a great ancient battle. He also noted a cartouche on the sixth cylinder of the column.

Back to the slide *"SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA"*



Location of the Temple of Iaat





SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA

2 **NAHLE:**

Situated northeast of Baalbeck above a deep and very pretty valley, the slopes of this village are studded with the familiar burial chambers often found near Roman/Byzantine sites.

There are the ruins of a Roman temple in the village that are included in a group of Temples of the Beqaa Valley.

The temple foundations are made of gigantic blocks of stone, upon which sit the remains of a podium. The podium has a long inscription written on it that is now almost impossible to read.



Back to the slide *"SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA"*

Location of the Temple of Nahle

The massive foundation stones of Nahle' s Roman temple suggest that a mighty structure once stood here.

This sanctuary consisted of two parts: an open air court and a large room with a ceiling where notches for the wooden beam still exist.

Only a few courses of stone are still standing, but the temple maintains its dignity despite crowding by modern village residences.

SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA

3 **TEMNIN EL-FOKA:**

The village of Temnin el Fawqa is located at the lower eastern part of Mount Sanin. The numerous springs of the region explain human settlement there, and the development of the flowing water goddess cult. In this area apart from the Nympaeum Sanctuary in Temnin.

Hadad and Atargatis are the water cult god and goddess. They were particularly worshiped during the Roman period. Temnin el-Foka is a nymphaeum is close to the spring of Ain el Job. The nymphaeum is an arched watercourse built of large stones that has been constructed 4 metres deep into a hill. It leads to a cistern underground. A gulley has formed at the outflow, where a boundary pillar is carved with the image of a goddess. It resembles a similar cippus at Kafr Zabad.

Back to the slide *"SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA"*



Location of the Temple of Temnin El-Foka





SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA

4 **QASR BANAT:**

An ancient temple (probably Roman) situated 1.5 Km east of Chlifa in the Baalbek District of the Beqaa Governorate in the city of Qsarnaba.

It is believed the site was called the *Castle of Virgins* and was the residence of virgins in Roman times. Indeed the arab world "Qasr" comes from the latin "castra" (meaning in English: "castle").

George F. Taylor classified Qasr el Banat among a group of ancient Roman Temples of the Beqaa Valley. It is suggested to date to Ancient Roman, but it is possible that was originally built as a very small temple- during Ancient Greek eras or earlier.

Back to the slide *"SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA"*



Location of the Temple of Qasr Banat

By the middle of the second century, the Romans had built many small temples and other sanctuaries in the vicinity of the temple district of Heliopolis, today's Baalbek, on the edge of the Beqaa. They were pilgrimage destinations for the inhabitants of the big cities on the coast. One of the Roman processional streets, partly carved out of the rock, led from here directly to the mountain temples of Hosn Niha. One of the most famous is the one in the village of Qsarnaba, called now "Castra El Banaat".

The temple is located on a rocky plateau, accessible by a climb up a hill at an altitude of 1,100 meters.

The top of the hill is covered in various platforms, cisterns, tanks and steps that have been carved out of solid bedrock. Within the remains is a small antae temple, constructed of large square blocks that was used as a fortress in later times. Some sections remain intact built up two or three layers high.

A basilica (probably Byzantine Christian) from a later period was built alongside the temple.

There are two circular structures located around 100 meters southeast of the temple that are thought to have been examples of the high places referred to in the Bible.

SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA

5 **FERZOUL HABIS:**

The historic caves of Habis were used as a hideout back in Roman and Byzantine eras.
Back then, reaching the caves was a difficult feat. But once inside, it's possible to reach any cave through interconnecting tunnels.
Now, the caves are a pleasant place to sit and enjoy a sunny day in the shade.
A spectacular landscape framed by the caves overlooks Wadi el Habis, Bekaa valley, and Anti Lebanon mountains.

Panoramic view of Ferzoul Habis



Back to the slide *"SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA"*

Location of the Temple of Ferzoul Habis


© DiscoverLebanon


© LebanonUntravelled










AL-QOUBAIYAT

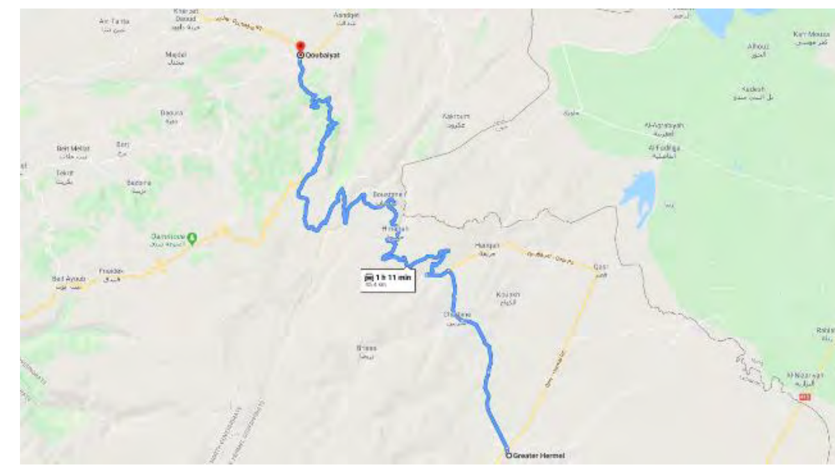
The origin of the name **"AL QOUBAIYAT"** is Aramaic. The word "Qbayya" means the big pool of water, and "Qbayyat" is the plural of it. That region was called "Qbayyat" for being rich in water sources.



Map of Al-Qoubaiyat



Location of Al-Qoubaiyat



Road map from Hermel/Beqaa Valley to Al-Qoubaiyat

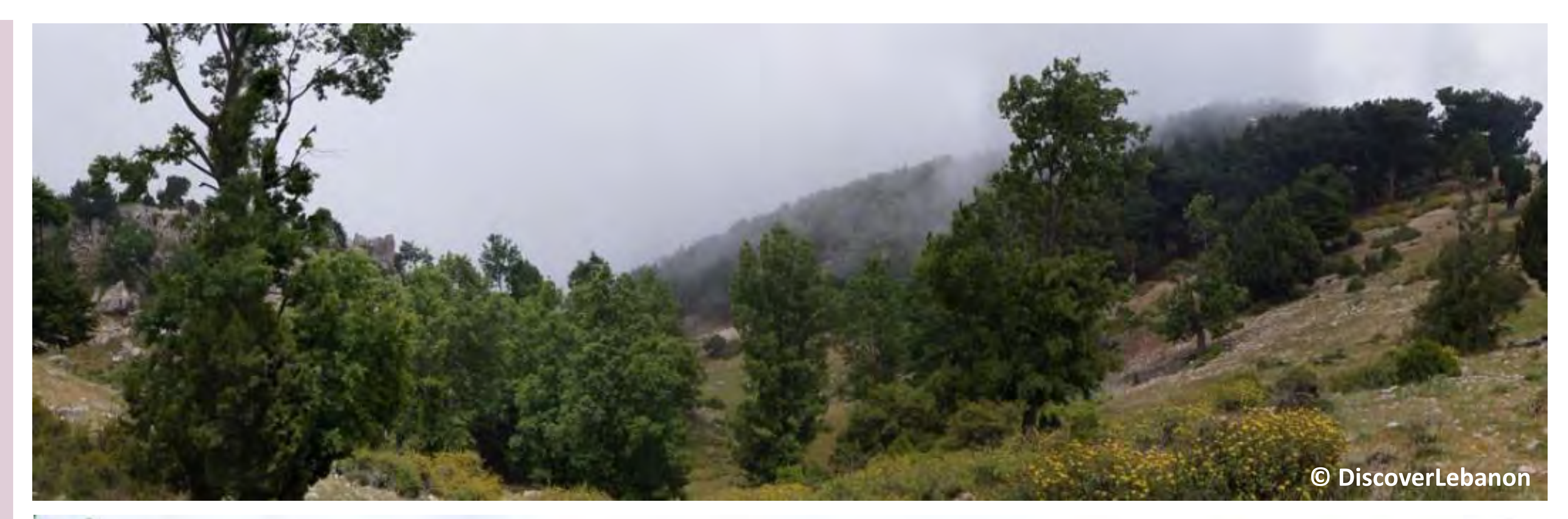
© DiscoverLebanon

Mar Artimos Challita Monastery

AL-QOUBAIYAT

Visits

- A region rich in water source.
- Al-Qoubaiyat Forest – panoramic views (1 – 2 – 3)
- Mar Artimos Challita Monastery – panoramic views (1 – 2)





Al-Qoubayiyat Forest



ITINERARY 2 - DAY 7: Menjez – Arqa – Tripoli

After spending the night in Al-Qoubaiyat, DAY 7 ends in Tripoli.

Passing by Menjez and Arqa, you can visit:

- Archaeological sites and ruins from different civilizations
- Citadels
- Churches and mosques
- Khans

Go back to *ITINERARY 2* table

MENJEZ

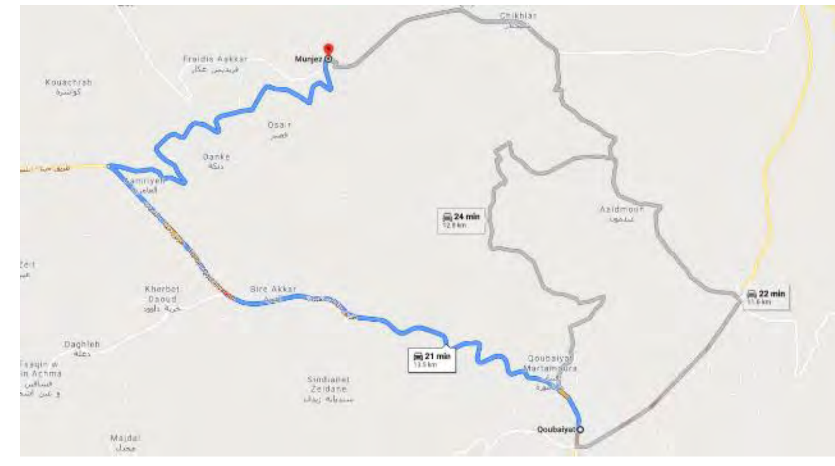
The village of **MENJEZ** is the home to a number of interesting historical, archaeological and religious sites, including: Beit Jaalouk temple (or "*Maqam ar-Rabb*", an ancient roman temple and worship site for the goddess Nemesis, dating from the first century AD); a crusader castle ruins "*Qalaat Felis*" inhabited by the Chevalier de St. Jean de Jerusalem or what is also known as Ordre de Malte, the castle belonged to the Comté de Tripoli; the Maronite Monastery of our Lady of the Fort "*Deir Saydet El Qalaa*" built by the Jesuits Order in the 19th century; remains of a roman canal; and 180 pre-historic tombs dating back to 5,000 years BC. This archaeological diversity and richness gives Menjez the possibility to become and archaeological park for research, education, and tourism.



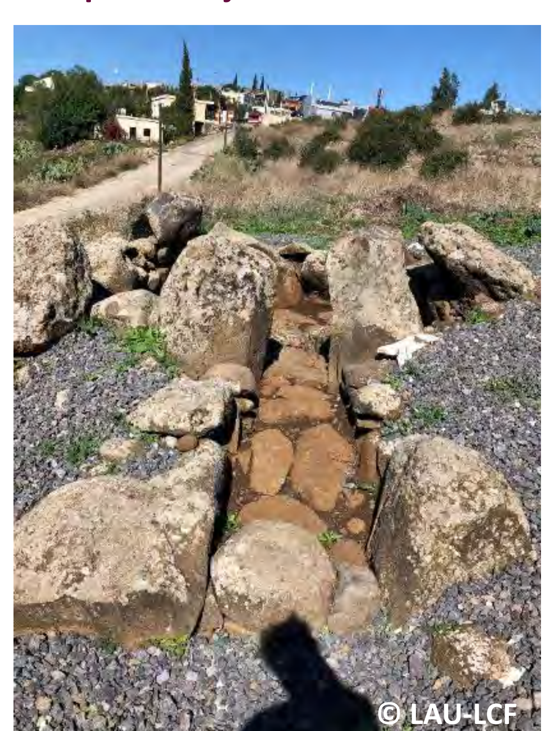
Map of Menjez



Location of Menjez



Road map from Al-Qoubaiyat to Menjez



Megalithic Tombs



Menjez Site

MENJEZ

Visits

Architectural Heritage:

- Roman basalt temple called Maqam Er-Rabb or Beit Jaalouk
- Qalaat Feliz
- Saydet El-Qalaa (Lady of the Fort) – panoramic view
- Megalithic Tombs 87 megalithic dolmens marking the site of historic graves dating from about 3000 BC
- The ruins of a Crusader castle, the Felix or the Felicium of the Hospitallers of Saint John of Jerusalem

Natural Heritage:

- Menjez river characterized by its natural pools
- Nahr el-Kebir river running through the border valley between Lebanon and Syria
- El-Horsh el-Assouad, a forest of laurels and oaks that stretches over 485.000 m2

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon


© LAU-LCF

Ruins in Menjez


© LAU-LCF

Megalithic Tombs


© LAU-LCF

Maqam Er-Rabb








ARQA

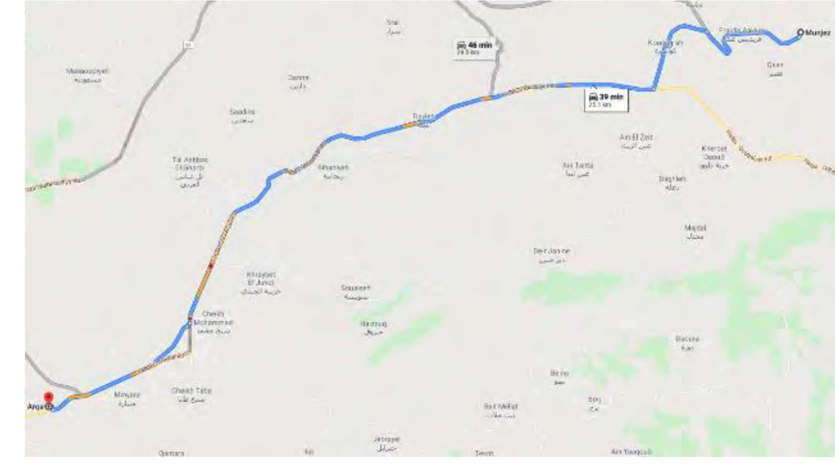
ARQA (Phoenician: *Irqata*; *'Arqat'* in the Bible) is a village near Miniara in Akkar Governorate, Lebanon, 22 km northeast of Tripoli, near the coast. The former bishopric became a double Catholic titular see (Latin and Maronite). The Roman Emperor Alexander Severus was born there. It is significant for the Tell Arqa, an archaeological site that goes back to Neolithic times, and during the Crusades there was a strategically significant castle.



Map of Arqa



Location of Arqa



Road map from Menjez to Arqa

© LAU-LCF

Archaeological Site

ARQA

Visits

- Tell Arqa archaeological site: *"excavation works carried out by the French expedition since 1972 in the archaeological site, overlooking the Akkar Plain, revealed the remains of lodgings, temples, wells, burial jars, brick, pottery, jewelry and mosaic plates, all dating back to several periods starting from pre-historical ages. Those archaeological remains testify the succession of several civilizations in the Canaanite Phoenician city of Arqa".*

"History of the Lebanese Worldwide Presence, the Phoenician Epoch"
by Dr. Antoine Khoury Harb



Ruins



Mound (Tell) Arqa



Archaeological Site

TRIPOLI

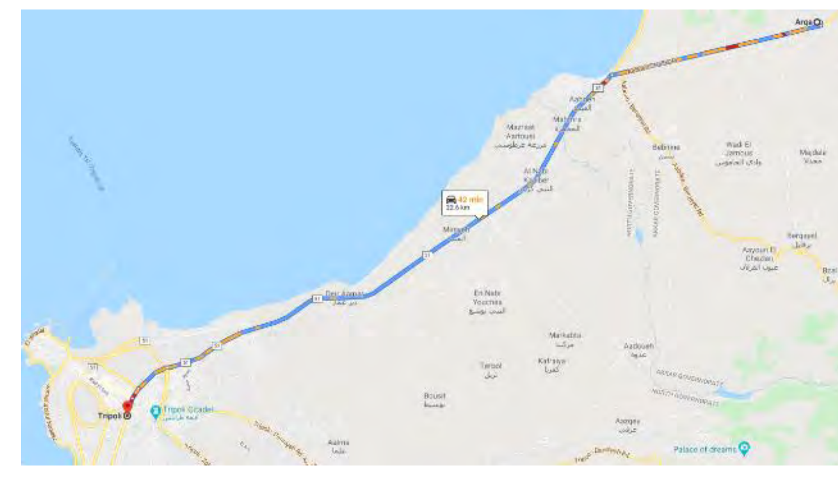
TRIPOLI, founded by the Phoenicians around 800 BC is today the second largest city and main port in Lebanon. Like Beirut, the city witnessed the presence of various Mediterranean cultures and empires including the Canaanites/Phoenicians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Umayyad, Abbasid, Crusaders, Ayyubid, Mamluks, Ottoman and French. Facing the shores of the city there are the Palm Islands, which known for its green turtles, and which was declared a Protected Nature Reserve by the UNESCO in 1992.



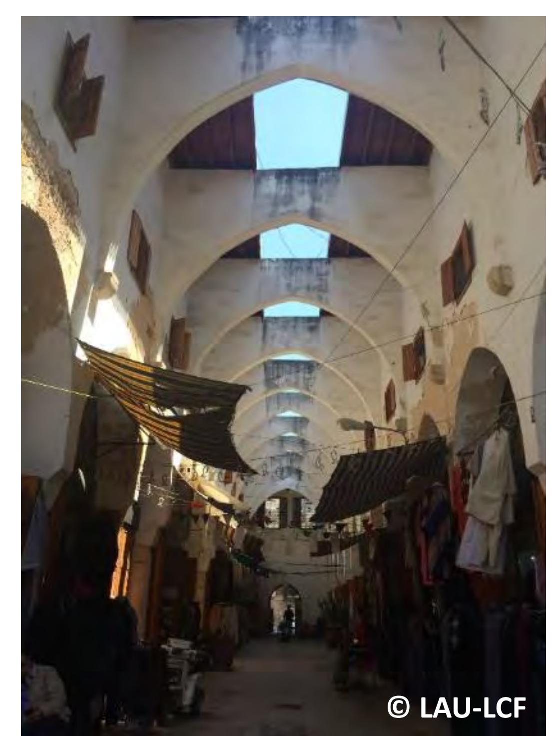
Map of Tripoli



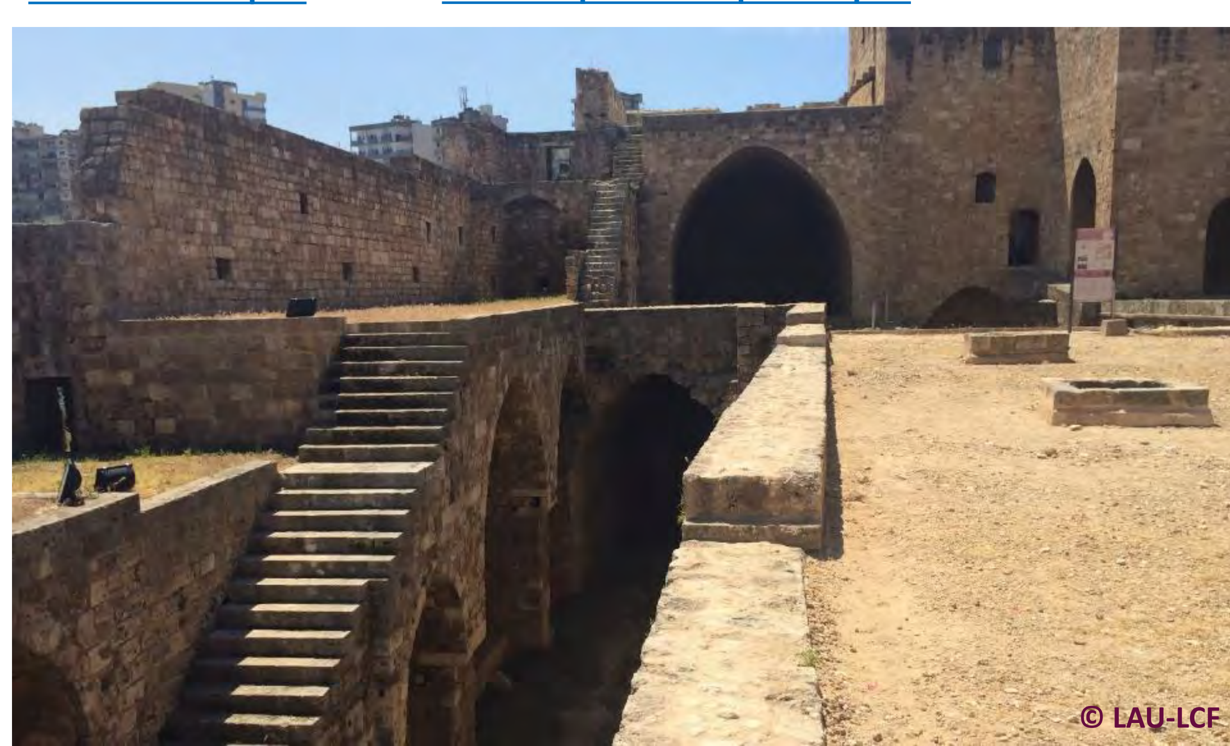
Location of Tripoli



Road map from Arqa to Tripoli



Souk Al-Khayatin



The Citadel of Tripoli

TRIPOLI

Visits

- The Taynal Mosque – exterior panoramic view – interior panoramic views (1 – 2)
- Saint-Gilles Citadel
- St. John of Mont-Pelerin Church
- Al-Mansouri Great Mosque
- Al-Bourtassi Mosque and Madrassa – panoramic view
- Abd El-Wahed Mosque
- Al-Ouwaissiya Mosque
- Al-Attar Mosque
- Al-Muallaq Mosque
- Arghoun Shah Mosque
- Al-Qartawiyya Madrassa
- Al-Tawashiyah Madrassa
- Al-Saqraqiyah Madrassa
- Khan Al-Saboun (Soap) – panoramic view
- Khan Al-Khaiyatine (Tailors)
- Khan Al-Askar (Soldiers)
- Souk Al-Haraj
- Hammam Al-Nouri
- Hammam Izz Eddine
- Hammam Al-Jadid
- Clock Tower/Manshieh Park
- The Lion's Tower
- The Train Station



Khan Al-Saboun



Al-Mansouri Great Mosque








ITINERARY 3 – *Coast, Interior, and Back to the Coast Route*

This itinerary is composed of 5 days; starting from Batroun and ending in Jounieh.

It has several stops/sleep-over as the following:

- Douma
- Baalbek
- Zahle
- Faqra

This itinerary is characterized by starting from a coastal city (Batroun), passing by an interior city (Baalbek) and ending back on a costal city (Jounieh).

The villages and cities to visit are mentioned in the table below.

ITINERARY 3	**DAY 1:** Batroun – Ain Akrine – Bziza – Douma **DAY 2:** Souaneh – Yanouh – Alita – Afqa – Baalbek **DAY 3:** Niha – Zahle **DAY 4:** Sannine – Baskinta – Faqra **DAY 5:** Faitroun – Harissa – Bkerki – Jounieh






ITINERARY 3 - DAY 1: Batroun – Ain Akrin – Bziza – Douma

This itinerary starts from Batroun and ends in Douma as a first stop/sleep-over.

Passing by Bziza and Ain Akrin, several places can be visited such as:

- Old souks
- Phoenician traces
- Temples
- Heritage museums

Go back to *ITINERARY 3* table

BATROUN

BATROUN, derives from the Greek Botrys, is founded by the Phoenicians on the southern side of the promontory called in Antiquity, Theoprosopon (*Râs ach-Chaq'a'*) and during the Byzantine Empire, Cape Lithoprosopon.

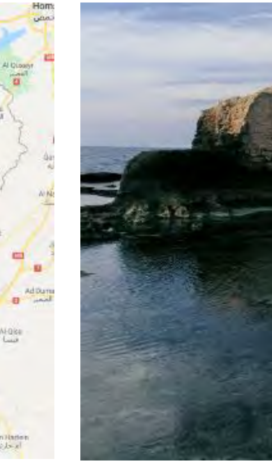
The city was under Roman rule to Phoenicia Prima province, and later after the region was Christianized became a suffragan of the Patriarchate of Antioch.



Map of Batroun



Location of Batroun





Phoenician Wall

© Ministry of Tourism

Batroun General View

BATROUN

Visits

- Phoenician wall – panoramic view
- The Roman Theater – panoramic view
- St. Estephan Church
- The Old Souk
- Miraculous Lady of the Sea



Makaad El-Mir Ruins

Phoenician Wall

AIN AKRINE

AIN AKRINE is a village in Koura District of Lebanon, oversees Koura's plain. This village is also known by Nawous town.

In Syriac language, Ain Akrine means abundant water. This village was built next to water springs, and in the past, there was a pond located on the road that links the coast with highland. This pond was used by strollers and livestock, causing the contamination of its water which means "Akira" in Arabic, the name upon which the village was named.



Map of Ain Akrin

Location of Ain Akrin

Road map from Batroun to Ain Akrin

© LebanonUntravelled

Qasr Naous Temple

AIN AKRINE

Visits

- Roman temples: In Antiquity, the two Roman temples that are now called Qasr Naous must have been quite a sight. They are situated on a hilltop and must have been visible from a great distance. The first temple, the one in the east, has survived well. In front of the temple, the remains of an altar are visible, while a substantial part of the temple itself is still standing: the whole platform, two columns with Corinthian capitals, and part of the walls. You can recognize the remains of a staircase which proves that there was a second floor inside the cult room.

Qasr Naous Temple








BZIZA

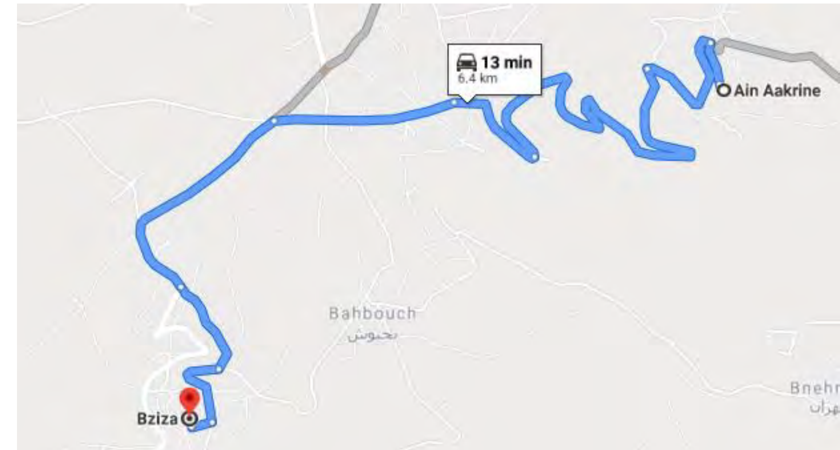
The Roman temple at **BZIZA** is quite well preserved. The western facade is embellished by an elegant portico of three limestone columns, the remainder of an original four, supporting architecture of the ionic order.

Bziza Roman Temple – panoramic view



Map of Bziza


Location of Bziza



Road map from Ain Akrin to Bziza

© DiscoverLebanon

Bziza Roman Temple

BZIZA

Visits

- Ruins of a Roman temple standing over fifteen meters high with fragments of pottery and oil lamps.

Roman Temple

DOUMA

DOUMA witnessed different civilizations including ancient Greece, ancient Rome and Turkey. However, the Ottoman Empire left the largest impact on Douma's inhabitants.

In the town square sits a 4th-century A.D. sarcophagus, bearing a Greek inscription recording that this was the burial place of Castor, who died in 317 A.D.

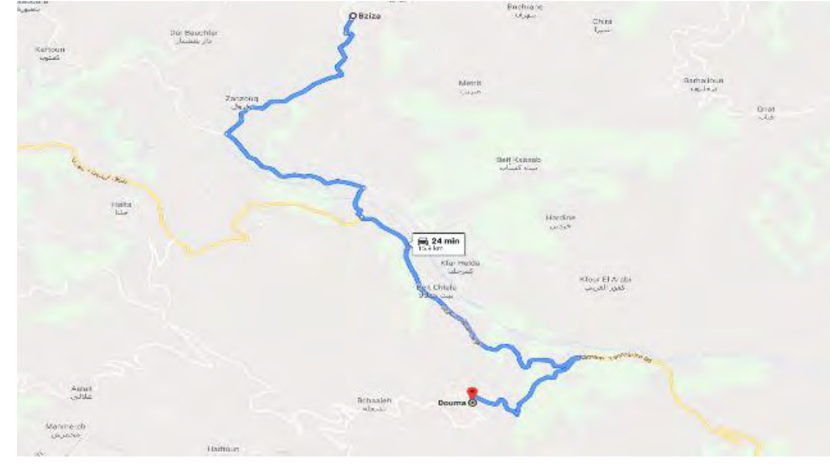
Panoramic view of Douma

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Map of Douma

Location of Douma



Road map from Bziza to Douma

© Ministry of Tourism

General View

DOUMA

Visits

Different civilizations (ancient Greece, ancient Rome, Turkey…):

- A 4th-century A.D. sarcophagus (bearing a Greek inscription recording that this was the burial place of Castor, who died in 317 A.D.)
- Heritage Museum, showing the history of Douma through time. Pictures of immigrants from Douma, local handicrafts, traditional artisan works, and stage clothes and accessories once used in Douma famous theater.
- Old Souk that has well preserved its traditional cachet. The small souk in the middle of the town offers various shops selling local and artisanal crafts and inexpensive goods.





Old House in Douma



Old Steerts of Douma

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Tripoli, Anfeh, Batroun, Ain Akrin, Douma, Byblos, Souaneh, Yanouh, Alita, Afqa, Baalbek, Jounieh, Harissa, Bkerki, Faitroun, Faqra, Baskinta, Sannine, Niha, Zahle, Beirut, Sidon, Tyre

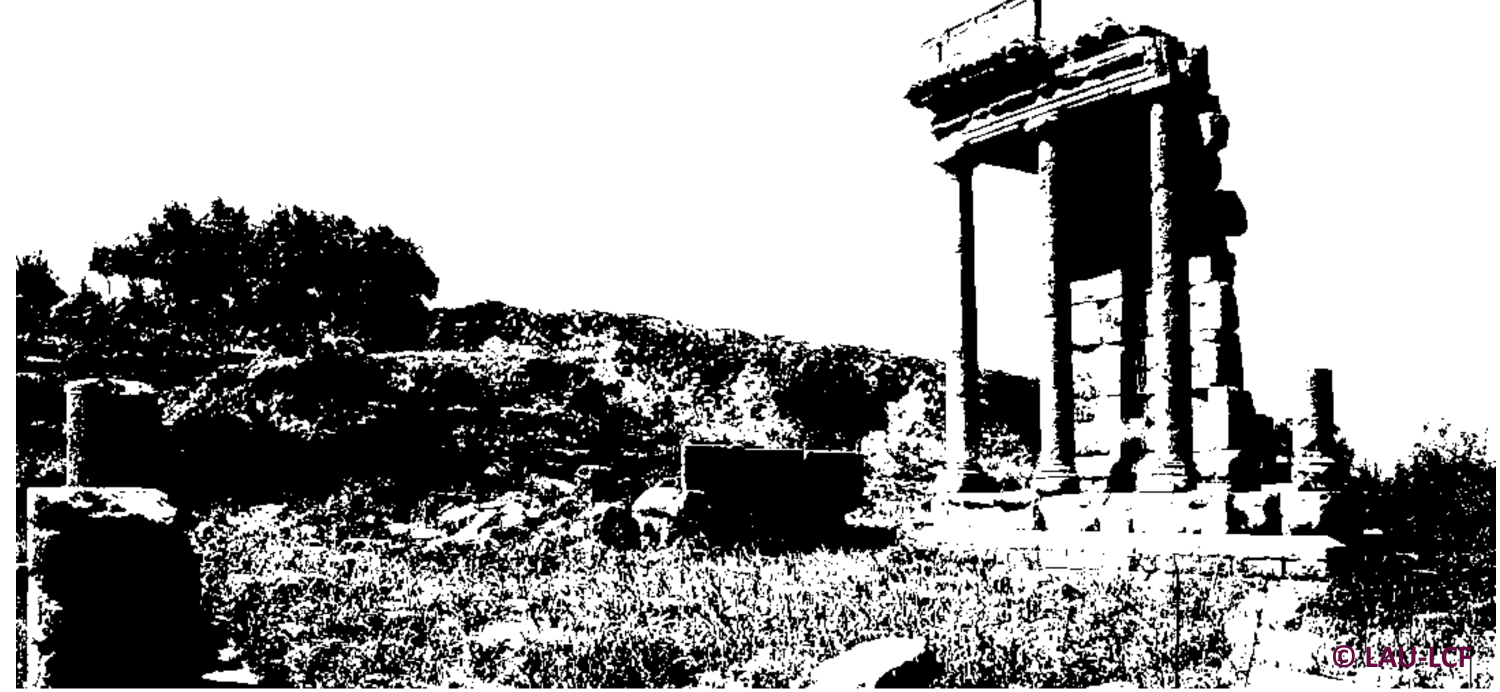
TOURIST MAP OF LEBANON
Scale = 1 : 200 000
LEGEND

After sleeping-over in Douma, DAY 2 ends in Baalbek, passing by Souaneh – Yanouh – Aalita and Afqa.

The places to visit are characterized by having or being:

- Temples
- Museums
- Waterfalls
- Archaeological sites

Go back to *ITINERARY 3* table



SOUANEH

"The village of Al-Mashnaka is located on the northern bank of the "Adon" valley, 48km from Beirut with an altitude of 1050m above sea level, where the middle road runs between Jbeil and Afqa. The name Mashnaka is derived from the Syriac word "Mashnaqta" which means "the place of torment and grieve".

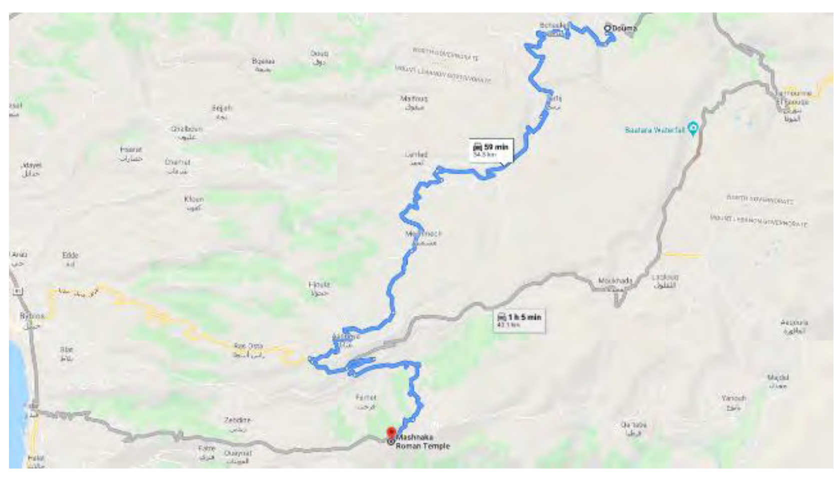
By Reem Abbani



Map of Souaneh



Location of Souaneh



Road map from Douma to Souaneh

Mashnaqa Roman Temple

SOUANEH

Visits

“This place was considered one of the most important stations of the Adonian rituals, where the Phoenicians engraved seven monuments representing scenes from the legend of "Adon and Astarte". The carvings are surmounted by a rocky surface, in which huge sarcophagi are carved in rectangular forms with conical lids.

These carvings and sarcophagi are an appendix of a square-shaped religious shrine that was a monument with no visible entrance, colonnaded by sixteen columns with Doric capitals. There is a fence that used to surround the shrine with a length of 95m by a width of 50m. If you walk to the southern side of this monument you will overlook a marvellous image of the valley”.

By Reem Abbani

Panoramic view of the temple.

Mashnaqa Roman Temple

YANOUH

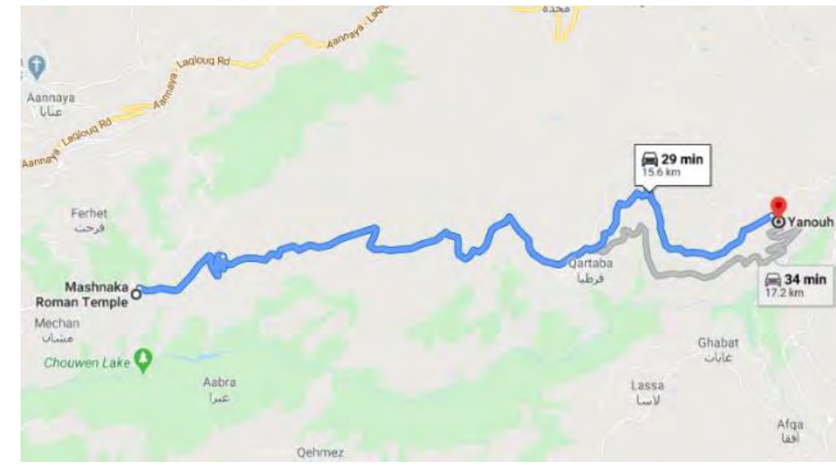
YANOUH, once a Phoenician center, is half-way between Byblos (Jbeil) and Heliopolis (Baalbek). Its Phoenician temple is a monument to the same religion as that of Apheca, but the later Roman temple was dedicated to Diana, the Roman goddess of the hunt and daughter of the god Jupiter.

General view of the village – panoramic view



Map of Yanouh

Location of Yanouh



Road map from Mashnaqa to Yanouh

© DiscoverLebanon

General view of the Village

YANOUH

Visits

Roman Temple – panoramic view

During the second century a small roman temple was built in the southern sanctuary and at the same period the northern sanctuary with its big temple was erected.

The big Roman Temple converted into a church and a newly built Chapel situated at the northern side. Many other chapels were built in the neighborhood.

The two roman temples were built of blue limestone blocks from which the name "Saint Georges the Blue" was given to the big temple turned into a church.

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



© DiscoverLebanon



© Ministry of Tourism

© DiscoverLebanon

Yanouh Roman Temple



Louis Cardahi Foundation







AALITA

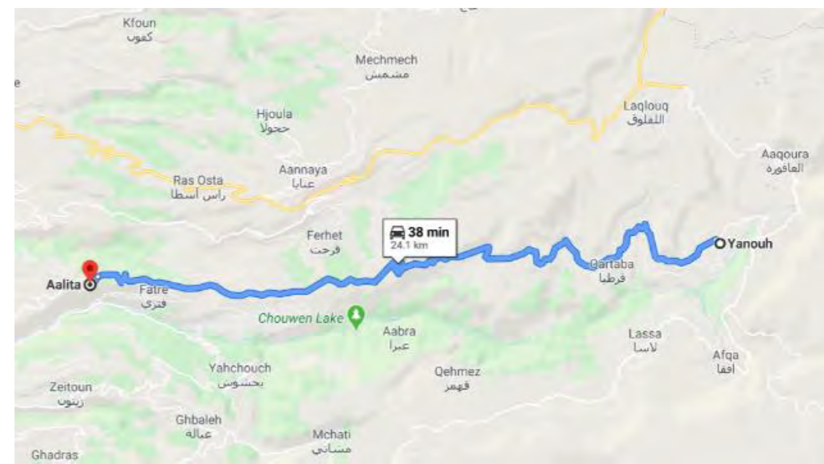
AALITA is known by its well known museum MACAM, the Modern And Contemporary Art Museum, opened in June 2013, in a factory compound in Alita. Owned and operated by a Lebanese NGO holding the same name, this Museum is dedicated to preserving and promoting Lebanese modern and contemporary art.



Map of Aalita



Location of Aalita



Road map from Yanouh to Aalita

© MACAM Museum

The Agora of MACAM Museum in Aalita



AALITA

Visits

- Macam Museum: In a large factory compound situated on a hilltop overlooking the Mediterranean sea and the picturesque Adonis Valley, colored wax crayons, white and colored chalk sticks and school boards in all sizes for children and schools were produced. In an adjacent factory, multi-layered craft paper bags for cement and hydrated lime were manufactured. These two factories were refurbished and transformed into a dynamic museum. This outstanding achievement was realized by a non-profit society, which was founded in December 2012 for the sole purpose of establishing a museum, MACAM (Modern and Contemporary Art Museum), the first of its kind in Lebanon. The society received as a donation these two factories.

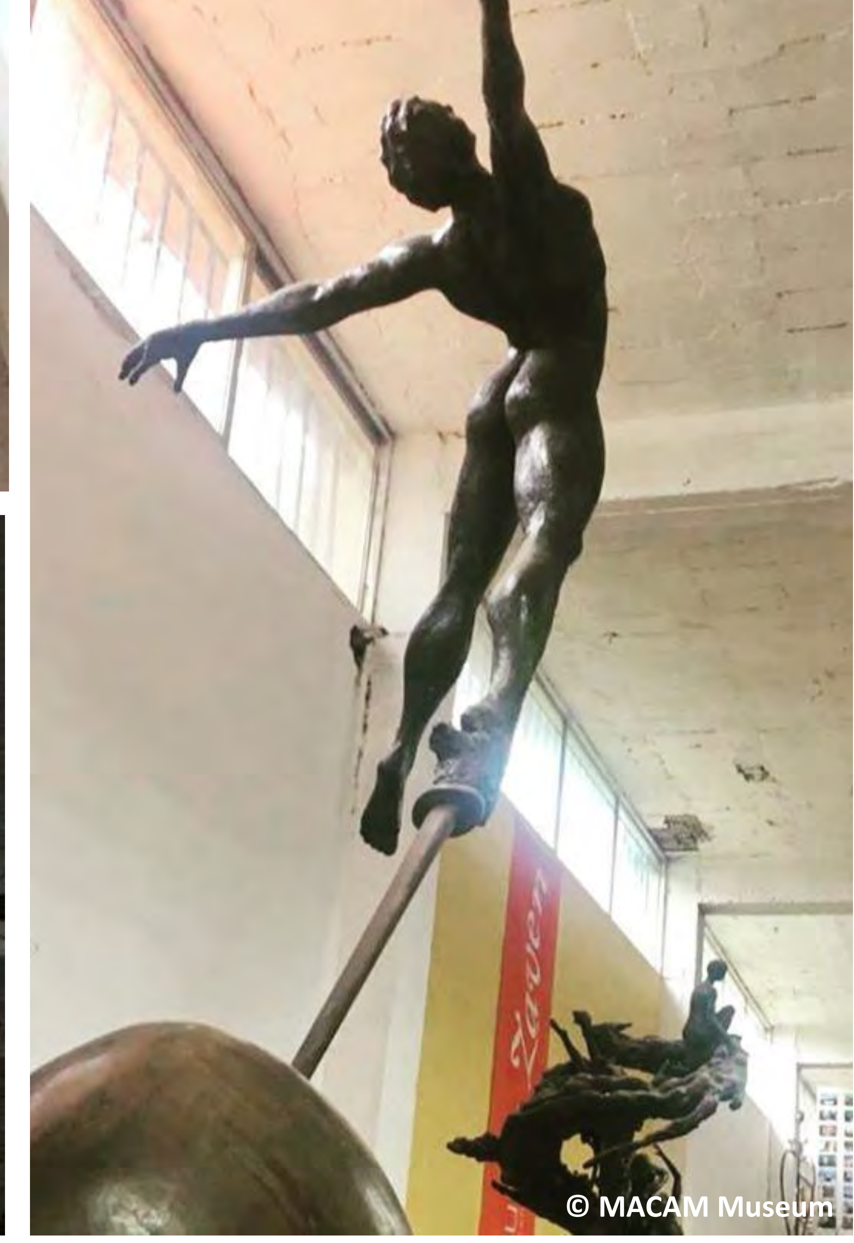


© MACAM Museum



© MACAM Museum

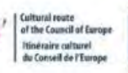
Contemporary Art



© MACAM Museum











AFQA

AFQA, Known in ancient times as *Apheca* or *Afeka*, located in the mountains of Lebanon, aligned centrally between Baalbek and Byblos.

It is the site of one of the finest waterfalls in the mountains of the Middle East, which feeds into the Adonis River (known today as Abraham River or Nahr Ibrahim in Arabic), and forms Lake Yammoune, with which it is also associated by legend.

In Greek mythology Adonis was born and died at the foot of the falls in Afqa. The ruins of the celebrated temple of Aphrodite.

Panoramic view of Afqa waterfall.

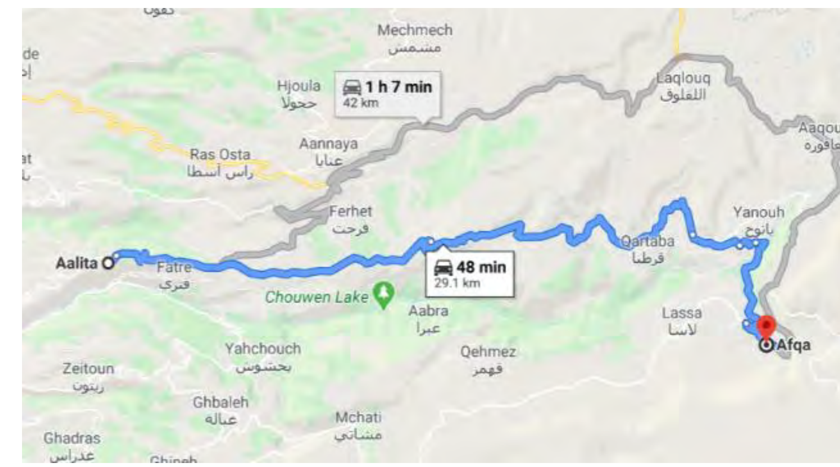




Map of Afqa



Location of Afqa



Road map from Aalita to Afqa

www.lebanoninapicture.com

Afqa Waterfall

AFQA

Visits

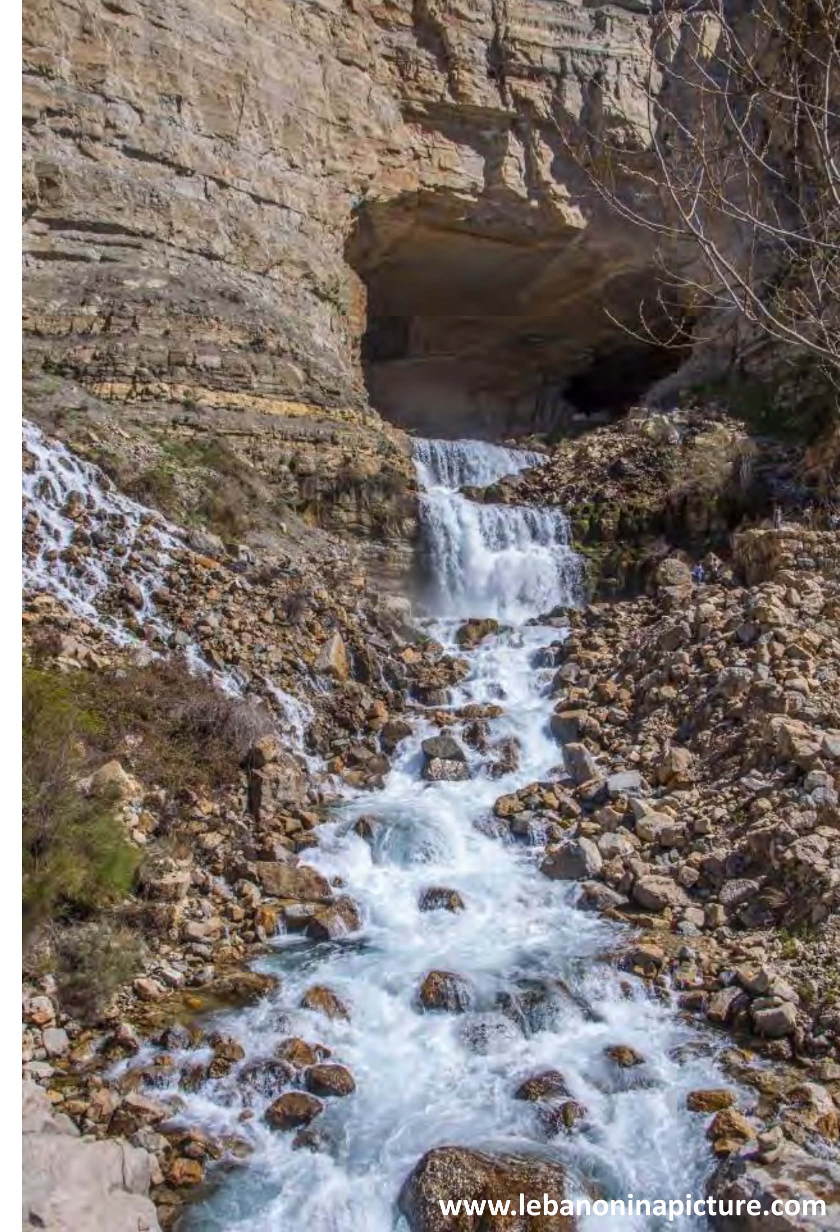
- A site of one of the finest waterfalls in the mountains of the Middle East.
- Ancient ruined walls of a temple once dedicated to Venus, or Aphrodite, her Greek counterpart.
- Afqa grotto



The Waterfall



The Waterfall from the Upper Level



Afqa Grotto

BAALBEK

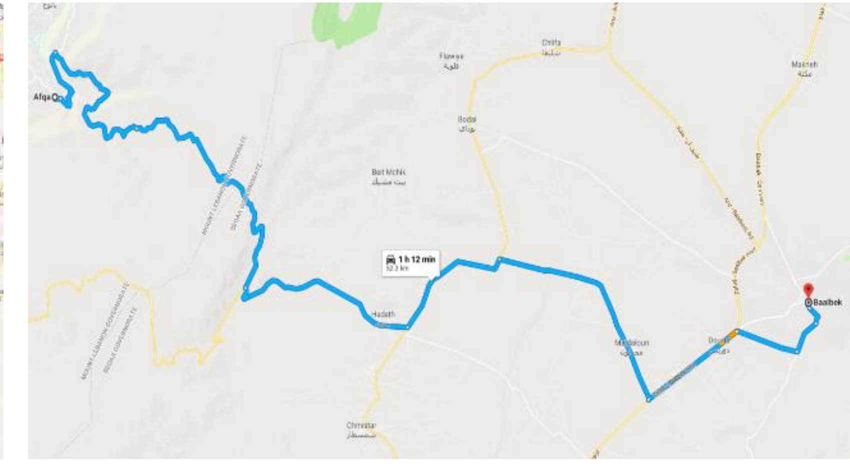
BAALBEK, founded by the Phoenicians, it was later conquered by the Macedonians who called it Heliopolis (always the City of the Sun) for assimilation between the god Sun and the Phoenician divinity Baal. Then it became a Roman colony under Augustus, preserving the new name. Today you can see three main buildings: the temple of Jupiter, the temple of Bacchus and the circular temple of Venus. A fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury is located on the hill of Sheikh Abdallah. inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).



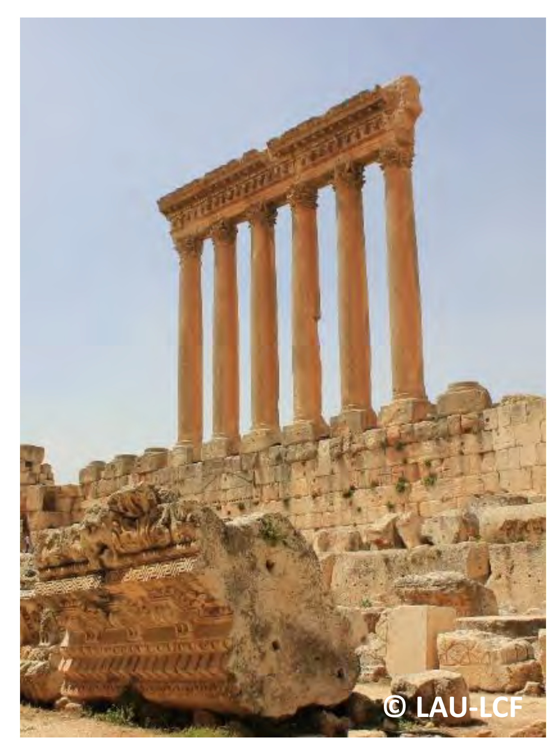
Map of Baalbek



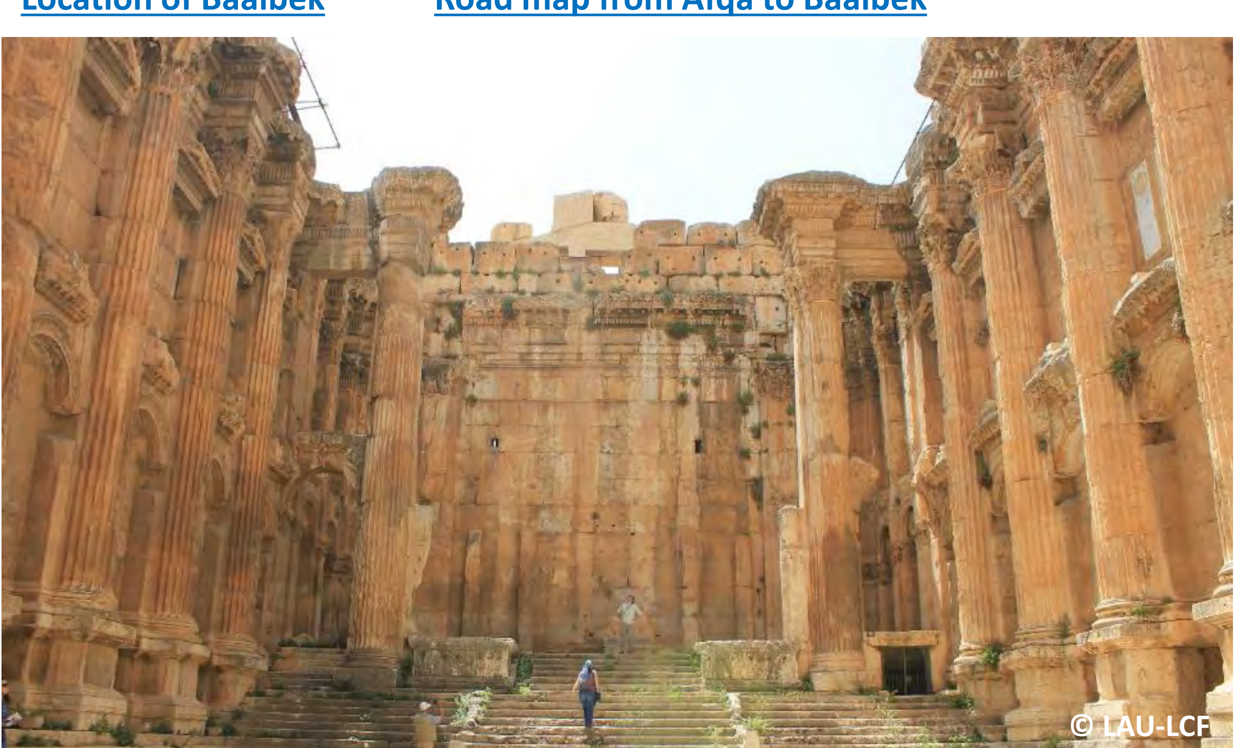
Location of Baalbek



Road map from Afqa to Baalbek



Temple of Jupiter



Cella of the temple of Bacchus

BAALBEK

Visits

- Three main buildings: the Temple of Jupiter, the Temple of Bacchus and the circular Temple of Venus and a fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury. Panoramic views of several monuments (1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6) and stone of the pregnant woman – panoramic view
- Heliopolis
- The Umayyad Mosque or The Great Friday Mosque
- Qubbat Al Sa’idayn
- Qubbat Douris
- Ras El Ain Spring
- Ras Al Imam Al Hussein Mosque
- Al Barbara Mosque
- The Shrine of Al Sayyida Khawla - panoramic view
- Cathedral of Fakieh – panoramic view
- Our Lady of Beshwet – panoramic views (1 – 2)

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Temple of Bacchus



Temple of Venus

© LAU-LCF

The Umayyad Mosque or The Great Friday Mosque



ITINERARY 3 - DAY 3: Niha – Zahle

After sleeping-over in Baalbek, DAY 3 ends in Zahle, passing by Niha.

The places to visit are characterized by having or being:

- Temples
- Wineries

Go back to *ITINERARY 3* table








NIHA

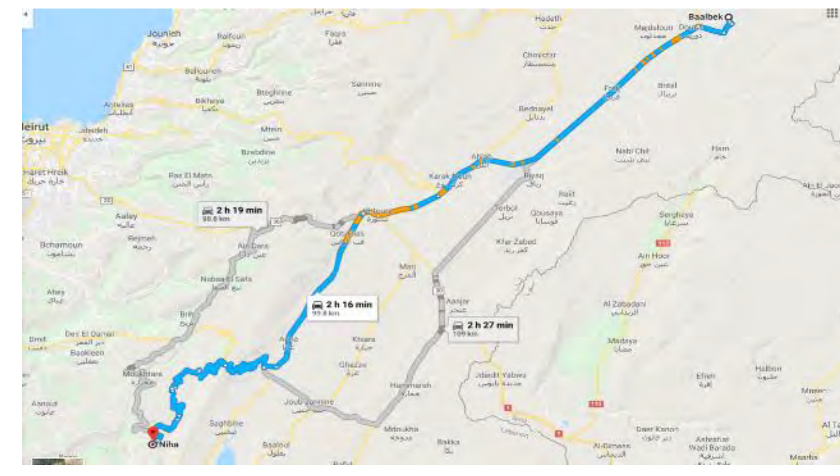
NIHA Roman Temples are two temples dedicated to the Canaanite goddess of fertility *Atargatis* (Phoenician Astarte) the god of thunder lightning and rain, *Hadaranes*, and their son. It is also known for *Hosn Niha*, a structure of many layers the latest of which is a small a Byzantine Basilica.



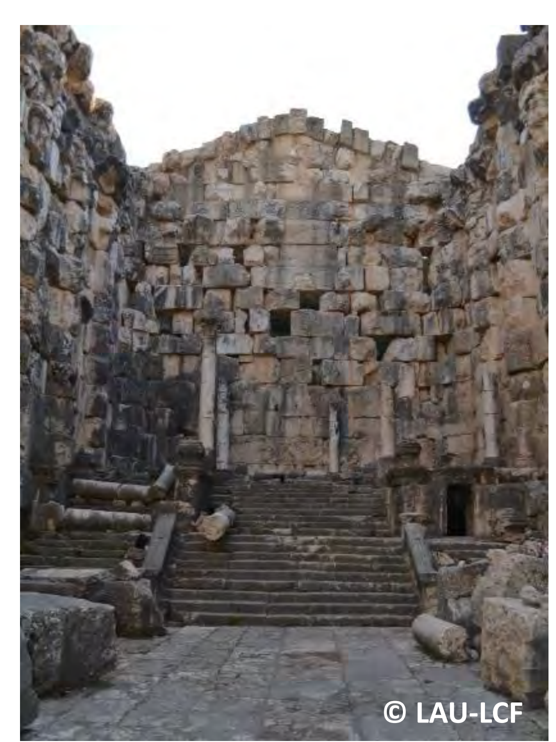
Map of Niha



Location of Niha



Road map from Baalbek to Niha



The Big Roman Temple





NIHA

Visits

- Big and Small Roman Temples: Niha Roman Temples also known for Hosn Niha, a structure of many layers the latest of which is a small Byzantine Basilica – panoramic view.
- The Roman Fountain
- Roman Stone Quarry



Detail of Niha Temple



Niha Small Temple



Detail of Niha Temple



Upper Grand Roman Temple



ZAHLE

ZAHLE is known as the "Bride of the Beqaa" for its geographical location and attractiveness, but also as "the City of Wine and Poetry“.

It is famous throughout Lebanon and the region for its pleasant climate, numerous riverside restaurants and quality arak.

General panoramic view of Zahle

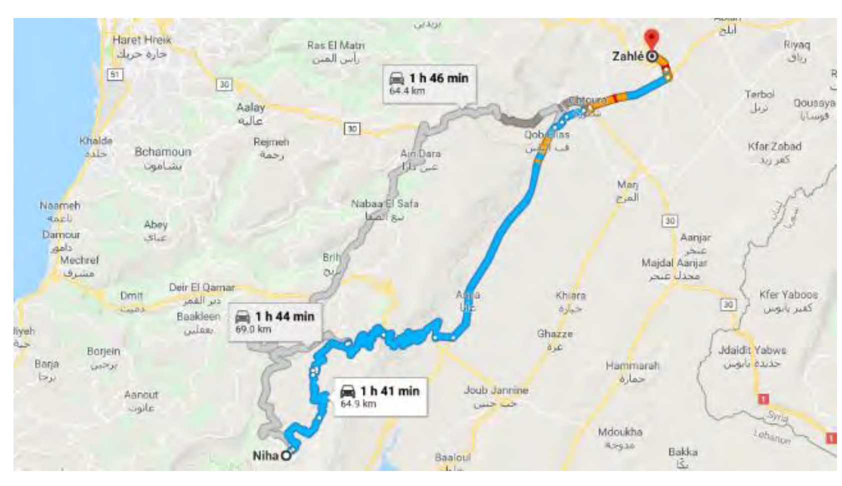

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Map of Zahle



Location of Zahle



Road map from Niha to Zahle

© Ministry of Tourism

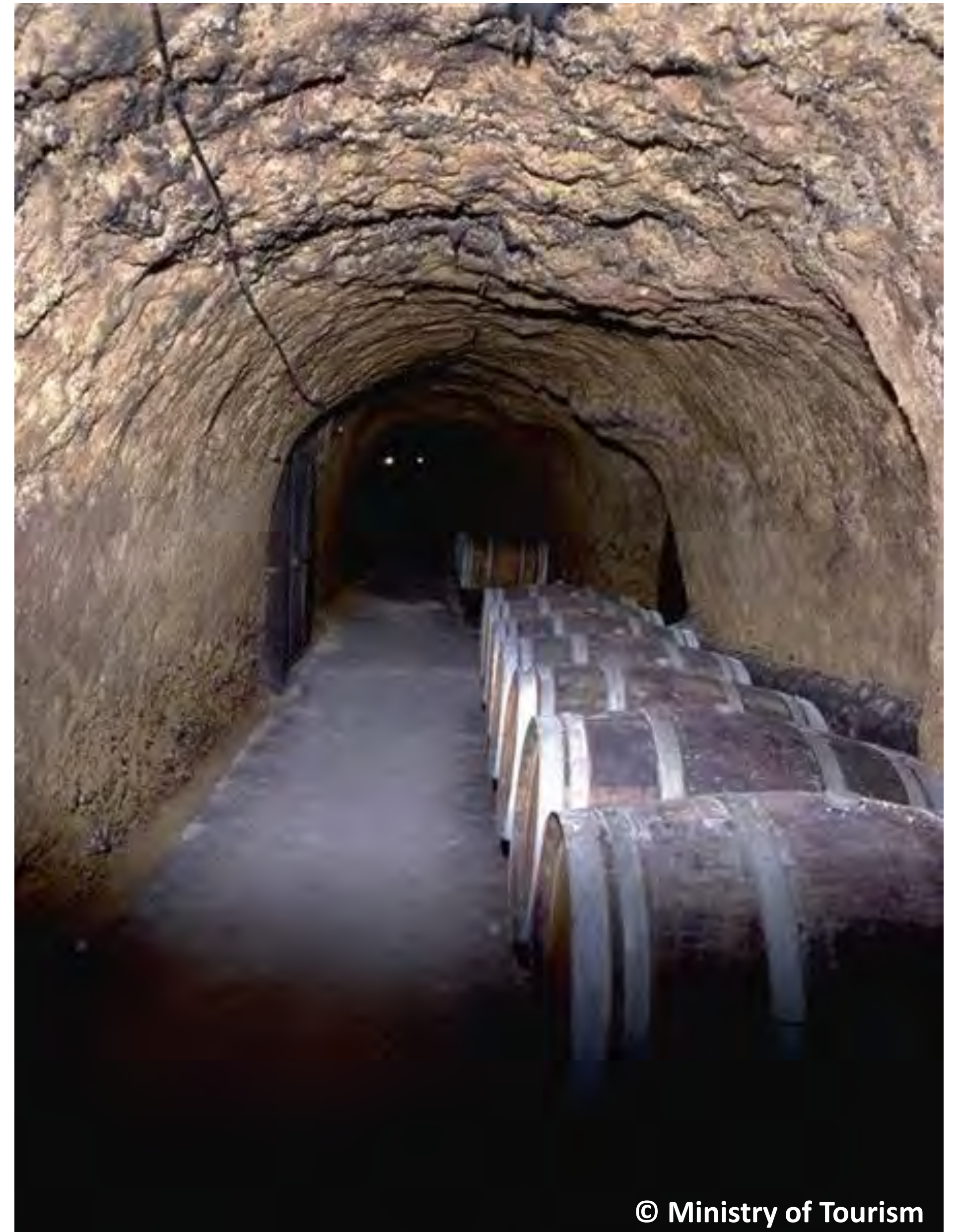
General View of Zahle

ZAHLE

Visits

Zahle is known for being the "City of Wine and Poetry"

- Chateau St. Thomas: Château St Thomas estate is a vineyard spreading over 65 hectares and a wine storehouse for fermentation and ageing. On this very land of the Beqaa valley, the Romans had once created the Temple of Bacchus, a tribute to the Roman god of wine. Throughout history, this land still shows unlimited potential to produce great wines.
- Chateau Ksara: was founded in 1857 by Jesuit Priests who produced the country's first dry red wine. Château Ksara is Lebanon's oldest, largest and most visited winery, attracting some 70,000 visitors per year (Chateau Ksara panoramic view)



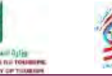
Ksara Wineries

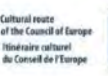


Shrine of Our Lady of Zahle



Chateau Ksara





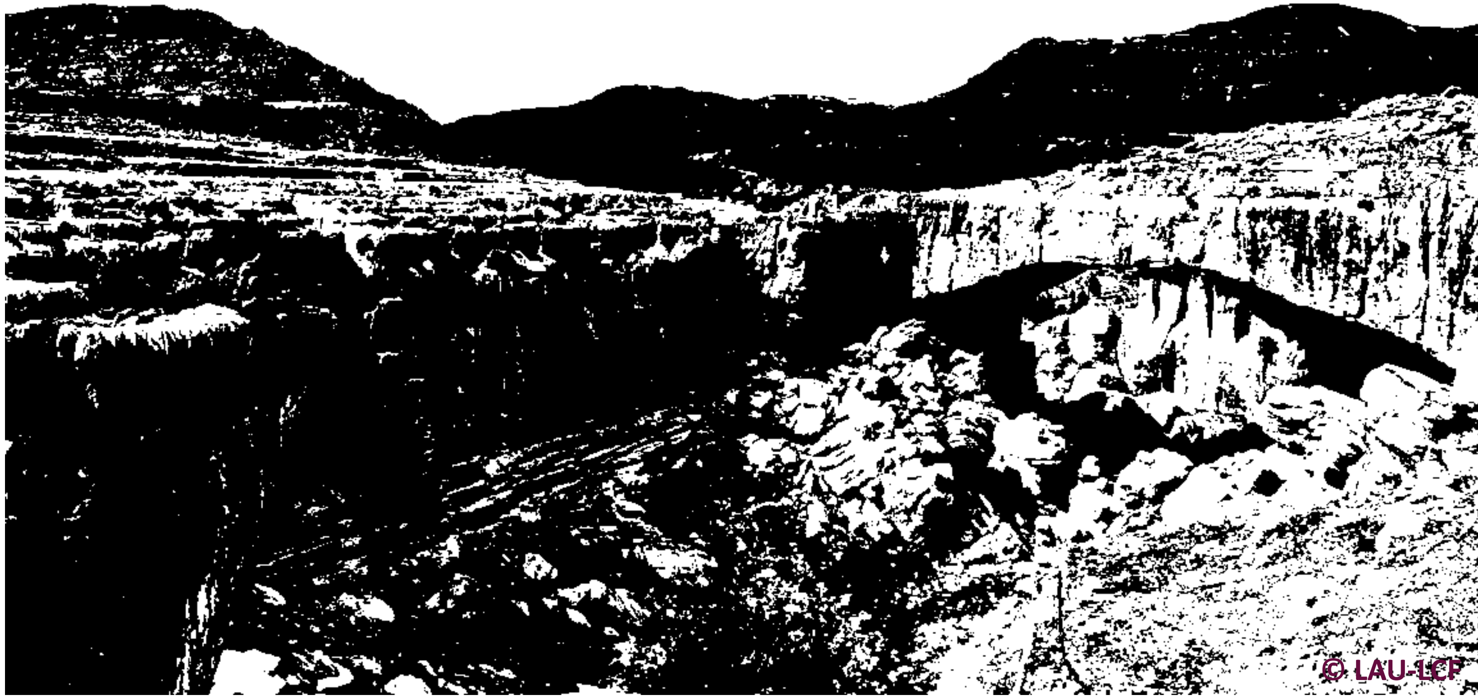
ITINERARY 3 - DAY 4: Sannine – Baskinta – Faqra

After sleeping-over in Zahle, DAY 4 ends in Faqra, passing by Sannine and Baskinta.

The places to visit are characterized by having or being:

- Temples
- High mountains
- Remains of different civilizations
- Churches
- Natural bridge

Go back to *ITINERARY 3* table



SANNINE

MOUNT SANNINE is a mountain in the Mount Lebanon range. Its highest point is 2,628 m (8,622 feet) above sea level in Lebanon. Mount Sannine, which has a base of limestone, is the source of many mountain springs.

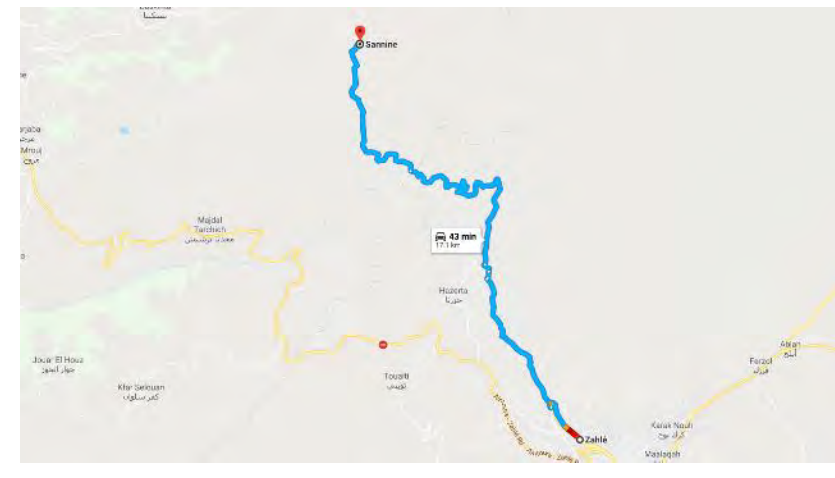
Mount Sannine – panoramic view



Map of Sannine



Location of Sannine



Road map from Zahle to Sannine

© Ministry of Tourism

Mount Sannine



SANNINE

Visits

- Source of many mountain springs

Mount Sannine








BASKINTA

The name **BASKINTA** means "the abode, the residence, and the place" according to the Syriac Etymology.

Baskinta is known for its natural environment and moderate climate. Baskinta is becoming a cycling spot for mountain biking amateurs with some off-road trails and a developed cycling community.

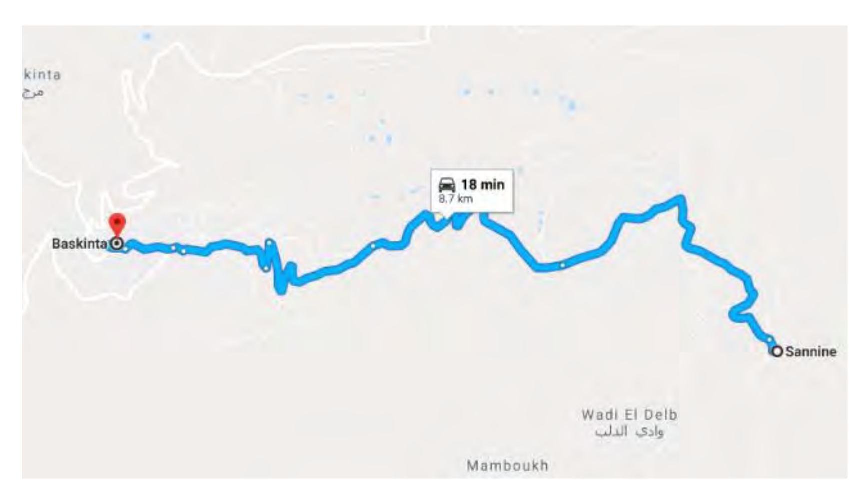
- Panoramic view of Baskinta
- Panoramic view of Mikhael Naimy

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Map of Baskinta

Location of Baskinta



Road map from Sannine to Baskinta

© DiscoverLebanon

General View of Baskinta

BASKINTA

Visits

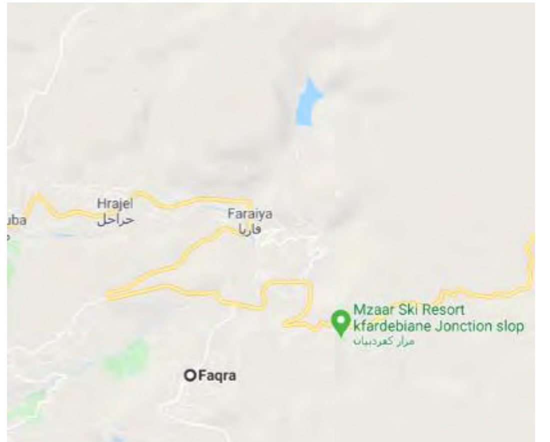
- **BASKINTA** carries the ruins of monuments, cemeteries, and numismatics, pottery remains that date as back as the Phoenician and the Greek ages. The Greeks knew Baskinta and built in it several palaces - of which enormous stones, pillars stands, and underground passages still exist.
- Phoenician and Greek remains.
- Mas Sassine Church – panoramic view



Mar Sassine Church

FAQRA

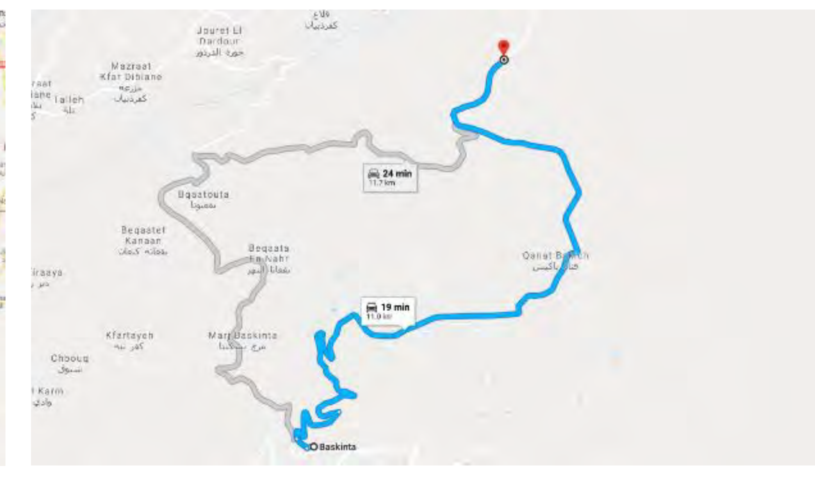
The Temple of Adonis is partly dug in the rocky platform of **FAQRA**, so it's partly a rock sanctuary. It does not rest on a platform. In front of the shrine, to the east, is a large, square court with an altar, surrounded by a colonnade, and there's another altar standing in front of the entrance. The square court was surrounded on three sides by a portico in the Doric building order. Several columns were sufficiently well-preserved to be re-erected.



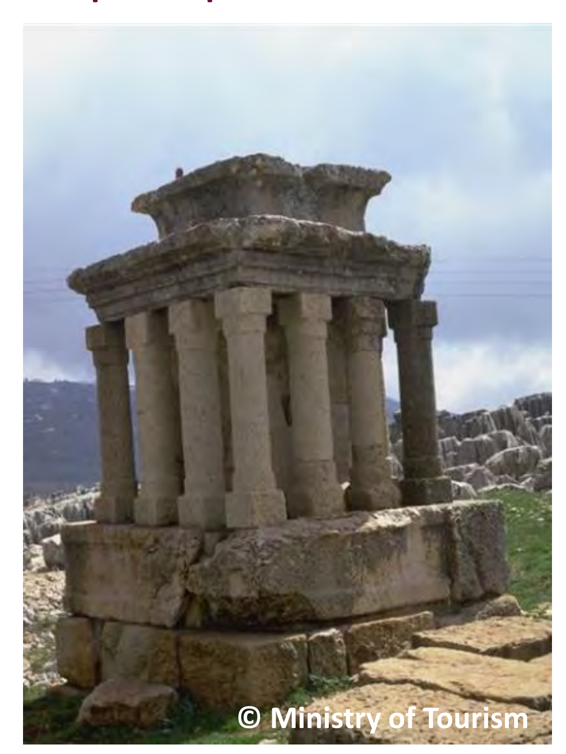
Map of Faqra



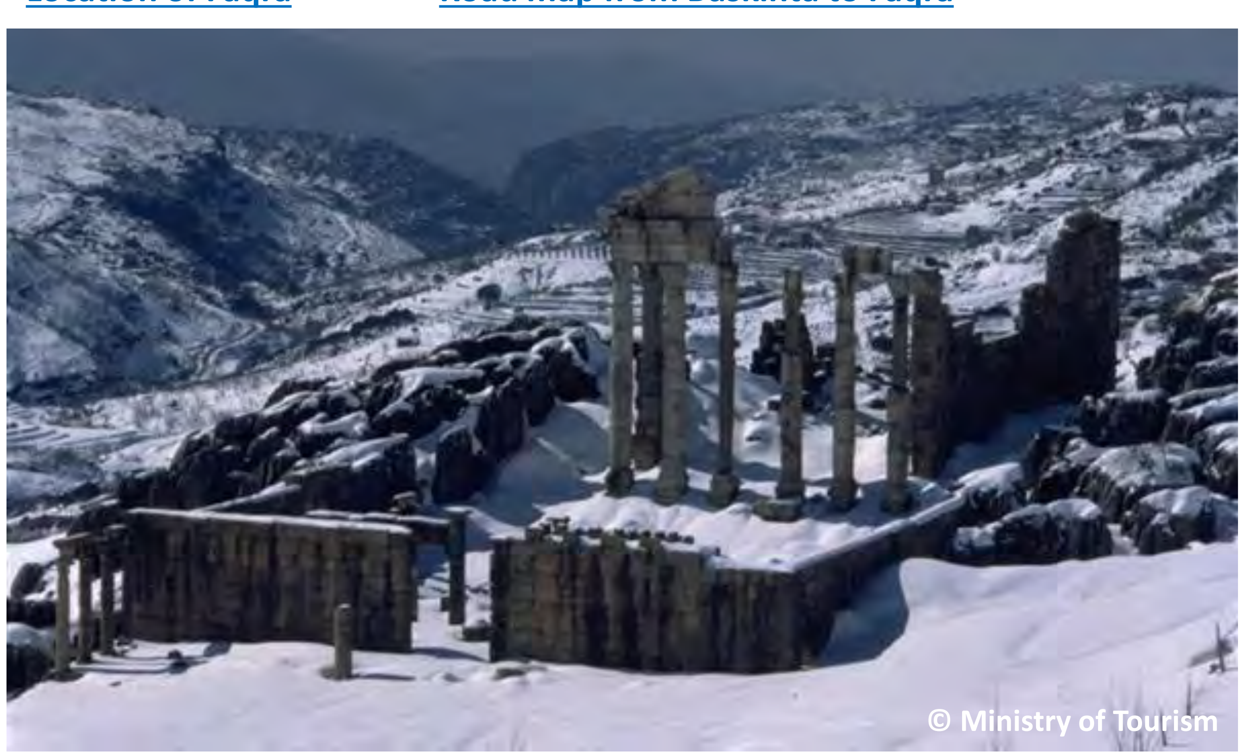
Location of Faqra



Road map from Baskinta to Faqra



Faqra Roman Temple



FAQRA

Visits

- Qalaat Faqra is an archaeological site in Kfardebian, with Roman and Byzantine ruins (panoramic view of the Roman Temple)
- Faqra natural bridge – panoramic view
- Temples of Adonis and Atargatis: Made of rocks from the area, the temples of Adonis and Atargatis stand side by side in Faqra. The temple of Adonis does not rest on a platform as it is partly dug into the rock. A square court with an altar, surrounded by a colonnade, can be found in front of an altar. Another altar stands in front of the entrance. The temple of Atargatis has an unusual, asymmetrical shape. A round tank can be seen at the entrance, thought to be the work of Christians who had built a church next to the temple and had reused the temple as a baptistery.
- Byzantine church and the tower of Claudius.
- The Chabrouh Dam is also within a short drive.

Faqra Natural Bridge




ITINERARY 3 - DAY 5: Faitroun – Harissa – Bkerki – Jounieh

After sleeping-over in Faqra, DAY 5 ends in Jounieh, passing by Faitroun – Harissa – Bkerki.

The places to visit are characterized by having:

- Natural rocks formation
- Religious landmarks
- Old souk

Go back to *ITINERARY 3* table



FAITROUN

The name of **FAITROUN** is a derivative of the Aramaic words meaning *"throne of the lord".*

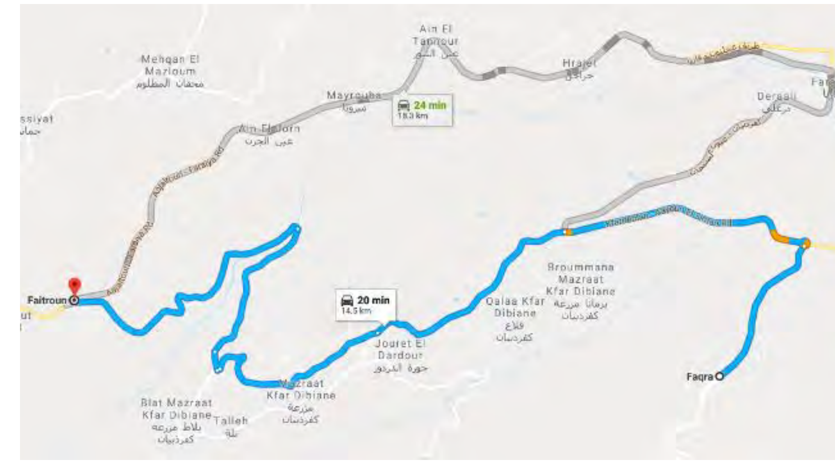
Faitroun is characterized by having a preserve of Natural Rock Formations.



Map of Faitroun



Location of Faitroun



Road map from Faqra to Faitroun

© DiscoverLebanon

General view of Faitroun

FAITROUN

Visits

- Faitroun rocks. A Preserve the Natural Rock Formations.
- The Church of Saint George, built in the 18th century

© DiscoverLebanon

General view of Faitroun








HARISSA

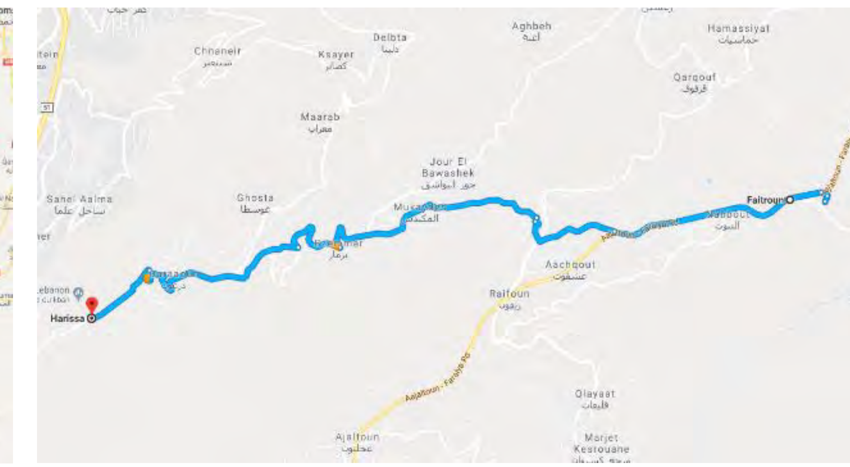
THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON draws millions of faithful both Christians and Muslims from all over the world. The 50th jubilee in 1954 was also the hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the Catholic dogma of the Immaculate Conception. During these celebrations, Pope Pius XII sent his representative, Cardinal Angelo Roncalli (later to become Pope John XXIII) to Lebanon. Pope John Paul II visited Our Lady of Lebanon in 1997.



Map of Harissa



Location of Harissa

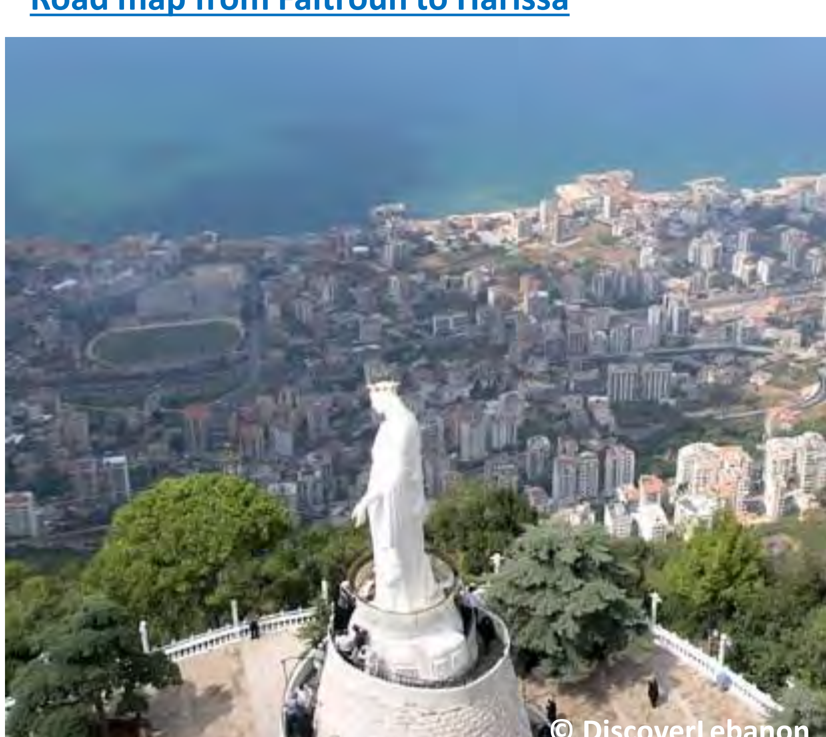


Road map from Faitroun to Harissa





The Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon



HARISSA

Visits

- The Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon.
  - Interior panoramic view of Harissa Church
  - Panoramic views of the piazza (1 – 2)
- Basilica of St. Paul – interior panoramic view

Night view of Our Lady of Lebanon along St. Paul Basilica

BKERKI

BKERKI is the episcopal see of the Maronite Catholic Patriarchate of Antioch of the Maronite Church in Lebanon, located 650 m above the bay of Jounieh.

Though now exclusively used by the church, the area was owned by the noble Khazen family. The clergy use it under a special *waqf*.



Map of Bkerki

Location of Bkerki

Road map from Harissa to Bkerki

© DiscoverLebanon

Bkerki, Maronite Patriarchate

BKERKI

Visits

- Maronite Catholic Patriarchate of Antioch of the Maronite Church in Lebanon – panoramic view

Interior Courtyard of the Patriarchate Church

JOUNIEH

- **JOUNIEH**, during the Phoenician period, the bay of Jounieh was an important winter shelter for ships sailing from the south to Byblos; hence, its name Palaebyblus (literary before Byblos). It is mentioned in the geography described in Strabo.
  The Geography of Strabo by Strabo

- **Jounieh panoramic views:**
  - The bay of Jounieh
  - The bay of Jounieh as seen from the sea
  - The Old Souk
  - The Sea Road

- General video about Jounieh

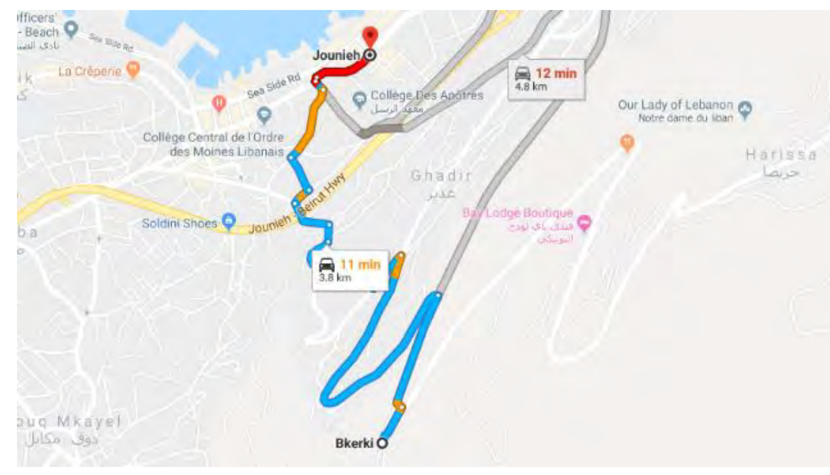
Panoramic views & the video are © DiscoverLebanon



Map of Jounieh



Location of Jounieh



Road map from Bkerki to Jounieh

Jounieh Old Souk

JOUNIEH

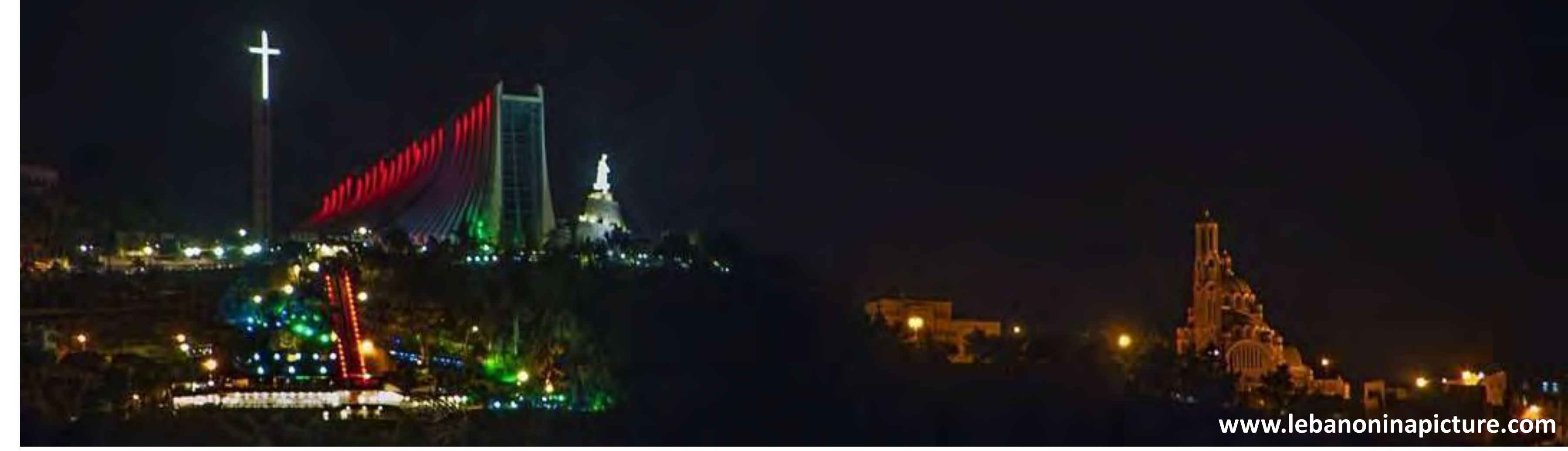
Visits

- The Phoenicians' Museum: The Municipality of Jounieh, as active member of the Phoenicians' Route, donated a historical building in the old souk of Jounieh that will be transformed into a Phoenicians' Route Museum. It is a project in process.
- Important winter shelter for ships sailing from the south to Byblos.
- St. Georges Garden
- St. Savior Orthodox Convent (Phoenician temple).
- Archaeological Museum of USEK.
- Jeita Grotto.
  Jeita Grotto panoramic views:
  - Lower cave (1)
  - Upper cave (1 – 2 – 3)
- Ancient Lycus River (Nahr El-Kalb).
- Harissa panoramic views:
  - Harissa interior view of the cathedral
  - Harissa outdoor views (1 – 2)

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



St. Georges Garden



Harissa and St. Paul Cathedral at Night









ITINERARY 4 – *Coast Towards the Mountains then North*

This itinerary is composed of 3 days; starting from Jbeil and ending in Menjez.

It has 2 stops/sleep-over as the following:

- Anfeh
- Wadi Qadisha

This itinerary is characterized by starting from a coastal city (Jbeil), going upwards the mountain (Bcharri and Wadi Qadisha) and ending in north Lebanon (Menjez)

The villages and cities to visit are mentioned in the table below.

ITINERARY 4	DAY 1: Jbeil – Mebaaj Grotto – Smar Jbeil – Batroun – Hamat – Anfeh DAY 2: Amioun – Bcharri – Wadi Qadisha DAY 3: Tripoli – Arqa – Menjez







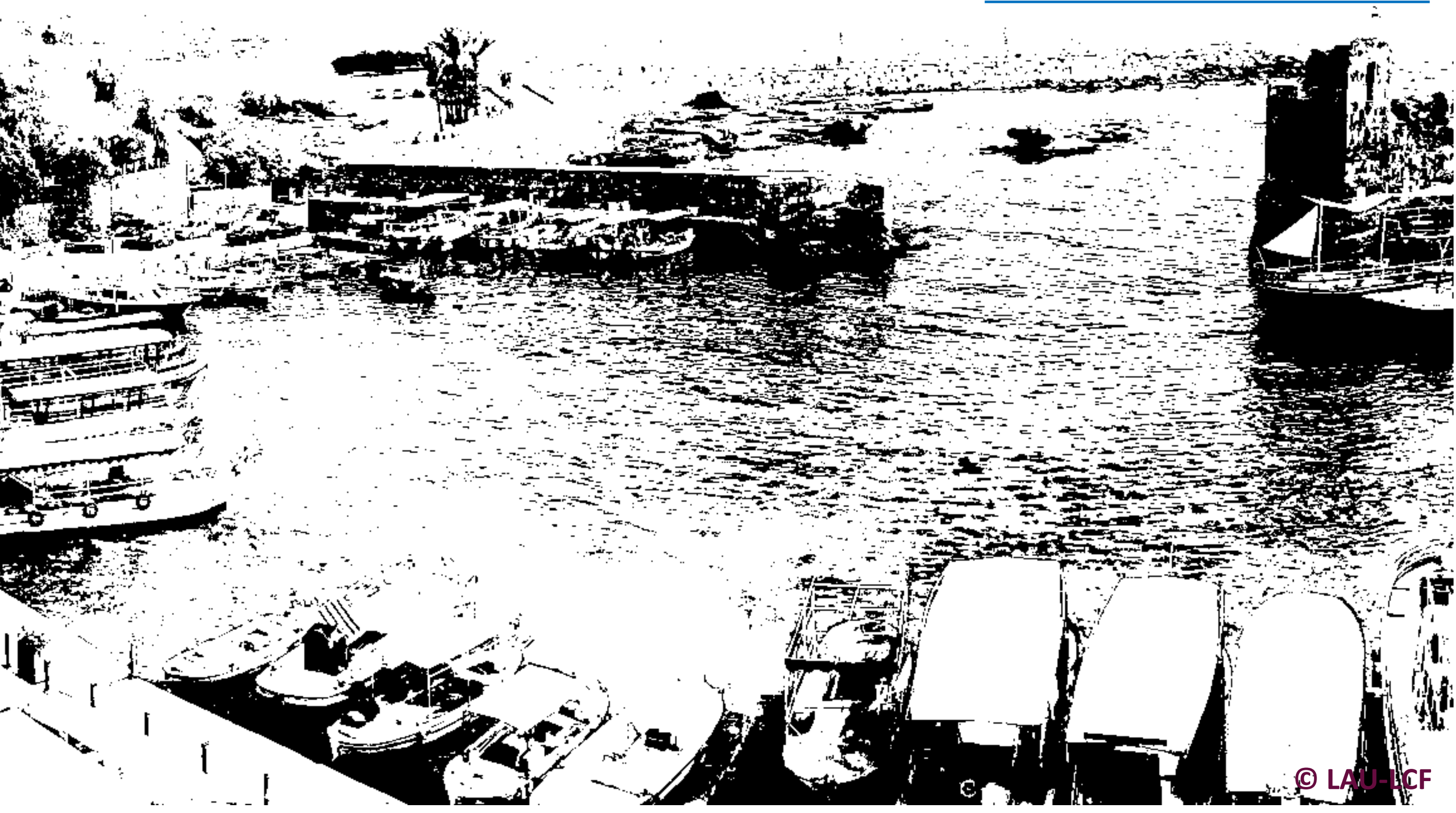

ITINERARY 4 - DAY 1: Jbeil – Mebaaj Grotto – Smar Jbeil – Batroun – Hamat – Anfeh

DAY 1 starts from Jbeil and ends in Anfeh as a stop/sleep-over. It is characterized by being a coastal itinerary.

Passing by Mebaaj Grotto – Smar Jbeil – Batroun and Hamat, several places can be visited:

- Archaeological sites and runs from different civilizations
- Old souks
- Grottos
- Phoenician traces
- Religious landmarks

Go back to *ITINERARY 4* table



JBEIL

JBEIL is believed to have been first occupied between 8800 and 7000 BC and continuously inhabited since 5000 BC, making it one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Map of Jbeil



Location of Jbeil



The Citadel of Jbeil

© LAU-LCF

Jbeil Harbour

JBEIL

Visits

- Archaeological site – panoramic view
- Old Souk – panoramic view
- St. John the Baptist Church – panoramic view
- Medieval City Wall
- The Harbour & Harbour Towers – panoramic views (1 – 2)
- Al Sultan Ibrahim Adham Mosque
- Roman Road – panoramic view (Christmas 2014 – Christmas 2016)
- Roman Nymphaeum
- Saydet Al Bouebeh Church
- Sultan Abd Al Majid Mosque
- Byblos Site Museum
- The Alphabet Museum
- Umayyad Museum

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Bronze Age City Fortification



The Roman Theater



The Alphabet Museum








MEBAAJ GROTTO

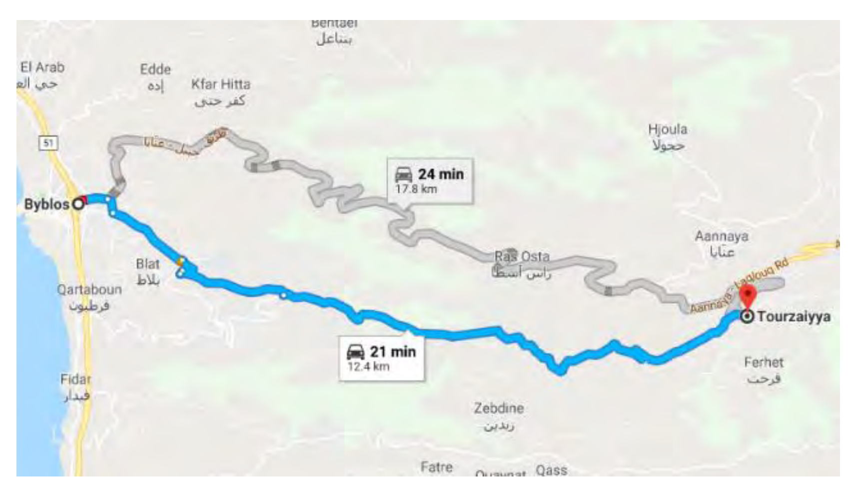
MEBAAJ GROTTO is made up of ponds and lakes and is believed to be 30 to 40 million years old. While the accessible area in the grotto is 220 meters long, its total length is estimated at 4500 meters.

[Mebaaj Grotto Official Webpage]



Map of Tourzaiyya

Location of Mebaaj Grotto



Road map from Jbeil to Mebaaj Grotto

© DiscoverLebanon

Interior of Mebaaj Grotto

MEBAAJ GROTTO

Visits

- Mebaaj Grotto: The geological survey of the site estimated the age of its rocks at almost 190 million years and that their present formation was completed during a period from 30 to 40 million years

Mebaaj Grotto panoramic views (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)





Interior of Mebaaj Grotto

SMAR JBEIL

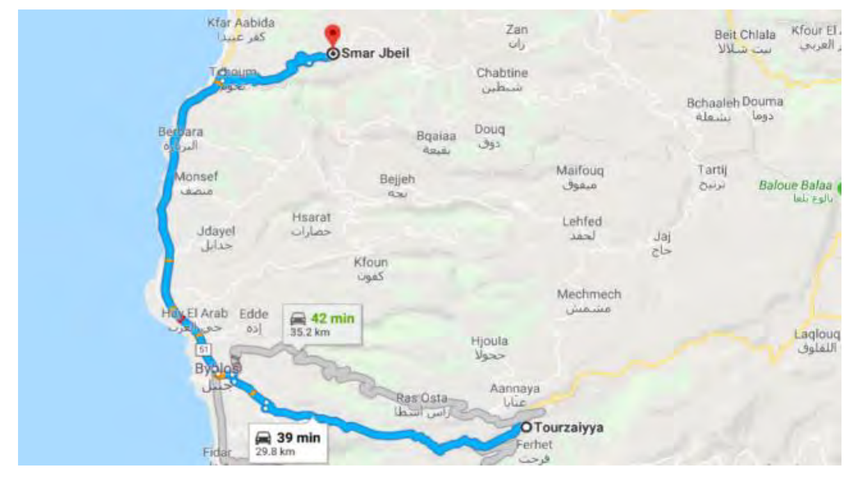
SMAR JBEIL is a small agglomeration situated in the region of Batroun in North Lebanon at an altitude of 500m, on the way between Batroun, Rashana and Douma. The name is of Phoenician origin and means Guardian of Jbeil, the Watchman. Smar Jbeil is one of the most ancient towns of Lebanon, having a Phoenician citadel which was used by the Romans, who left inscriptions in the northern wall. The Crusaders for their part built basements around its two towers and a church on the side facing north. Wells were dug in the living rock as well as deep underground galleries.



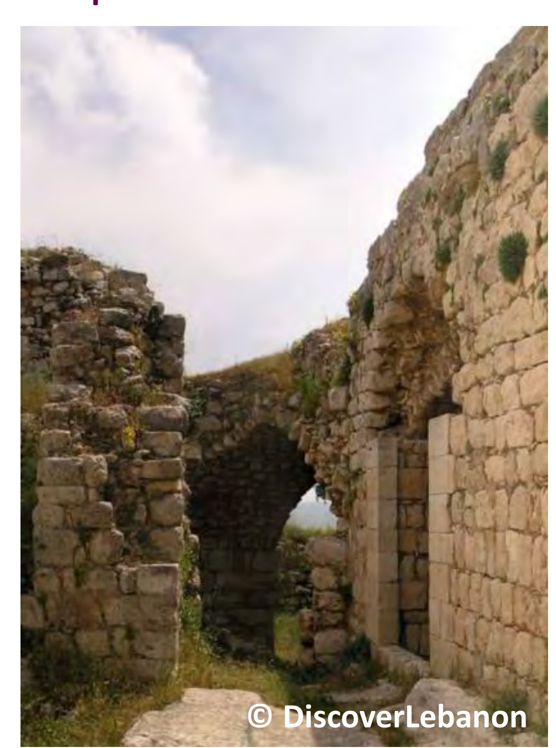
Map of Smar Jbeil

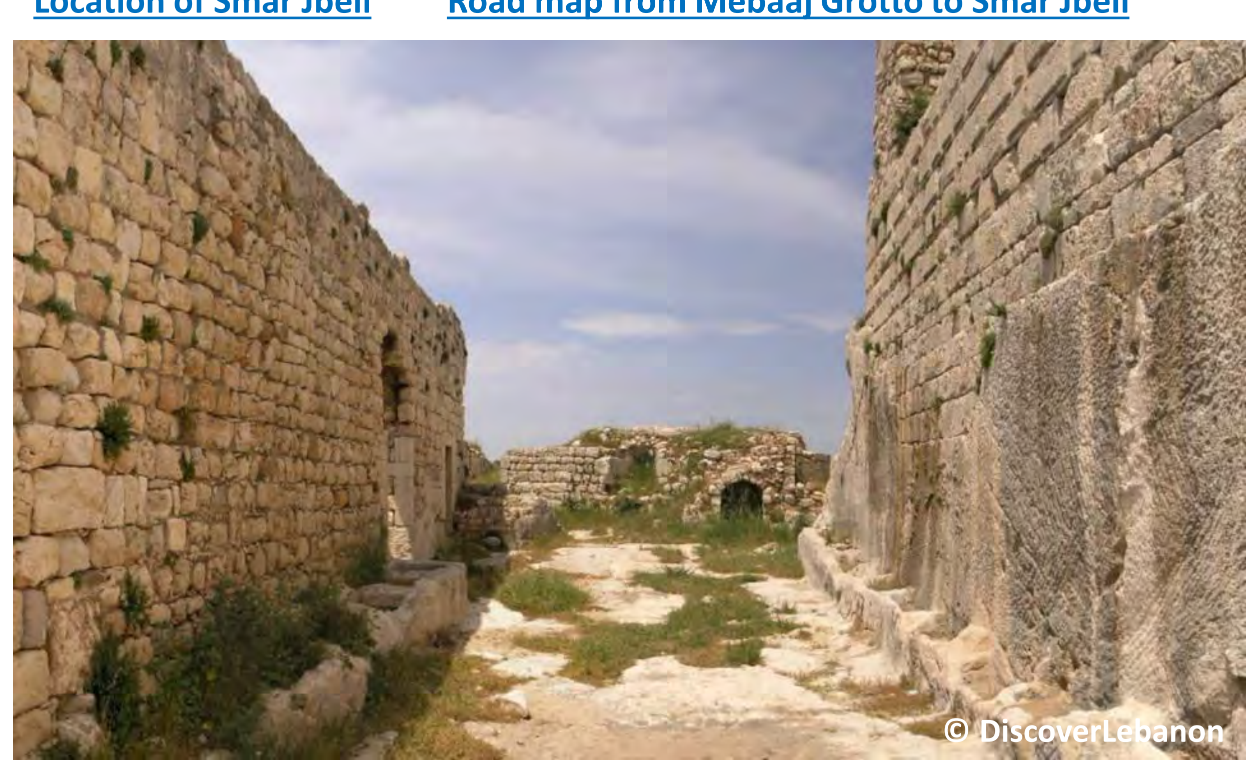


Location of Smar Jbeil



Road map from Mebaaj Grotto to Smar Jbeil



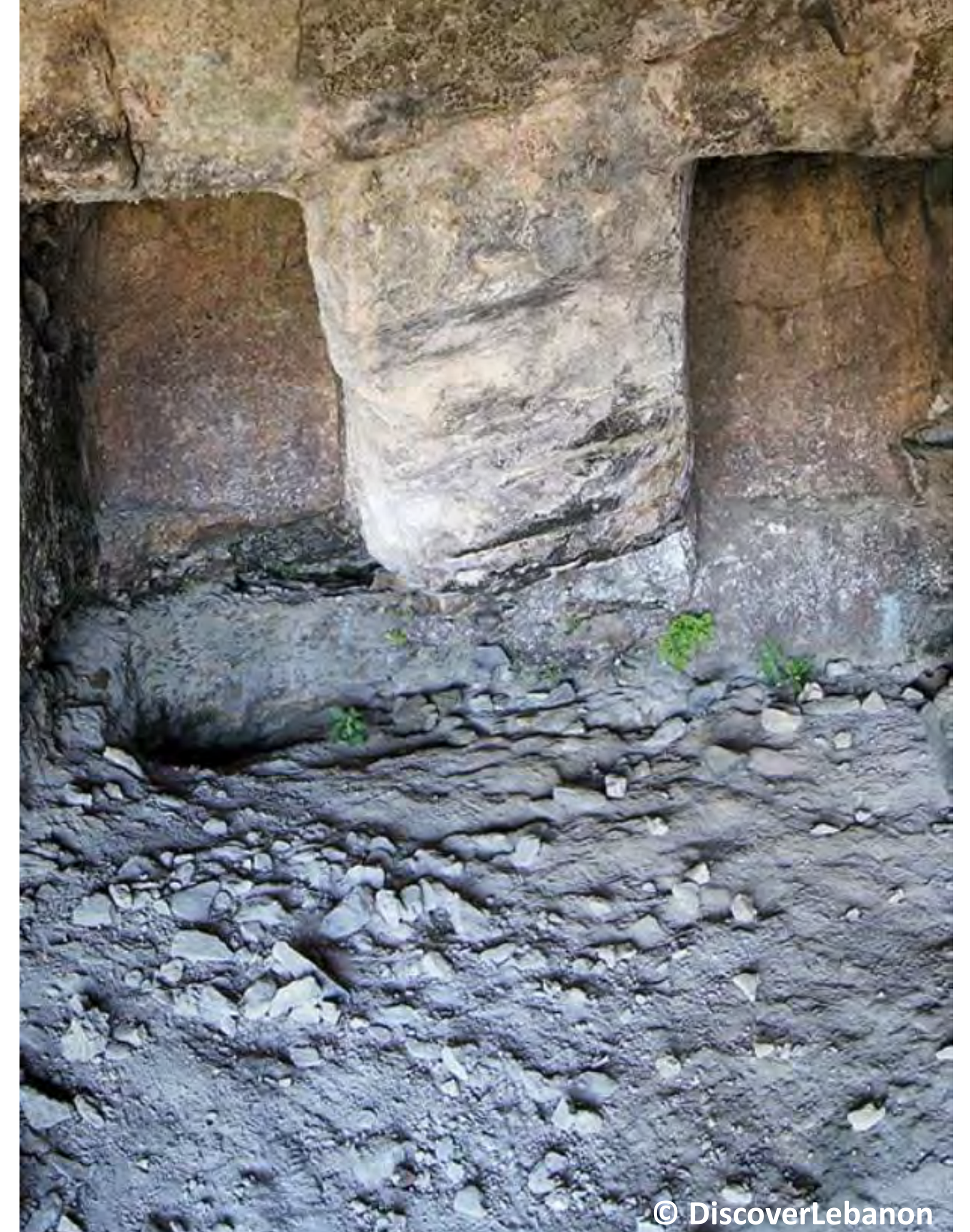


The Citadel

SMAR JBEIL

Visits

- Smar Jbeil has a Phoenician citadel – panoramic view (1 – 2)
- Phoenician tombs – panoramic view
- Our Lady of the Gifts Church (the oldest Virgin Mary church in Lebanon) – (interior – exterior)
- Mar Nohra Church



Phoenician Tombs



Our Lady of the Gifts Church

BATROUN

BATROUN, derives from the Greek Botrys, is founded by the Phoenicians on the southern side of the promontory called in Antiquity, Theoprosopon (*Râs ach-Chaq'a'*) and during the Byzantine Empire, Cape Lithoprosopon.

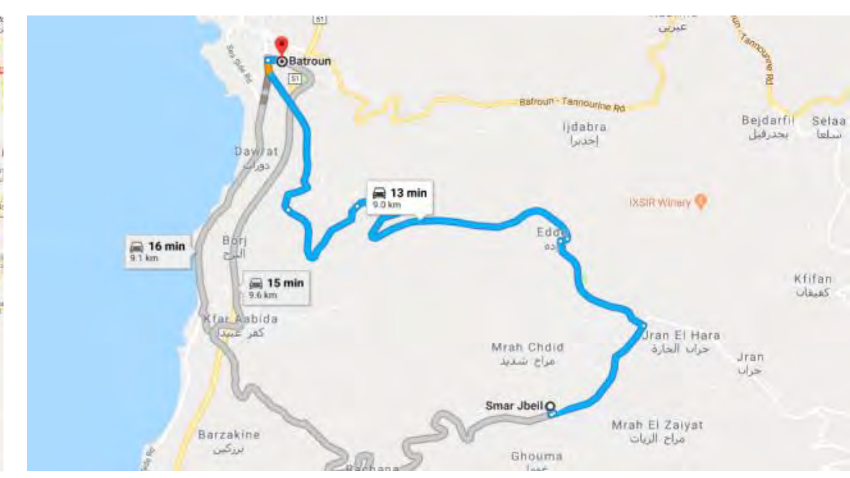
The city was under Roman rule to Phoenicia Prima province, and later after the region was Christianized became a suffragan of the Patriarchate of Antioch.



Map of Batroun



Location of Batroun



Road map from Smar Jbeil to Batroun

Batroun General View

BATROUN

Visits

- Phoenician wall – panoramic view
- The Roman Theater – panoramic view
- St. Estephan Church
- The Old Souk
- Miraculous Lady of the Sea

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Makaad El-Mir Ruins

Phoenician Wall












HAMAT

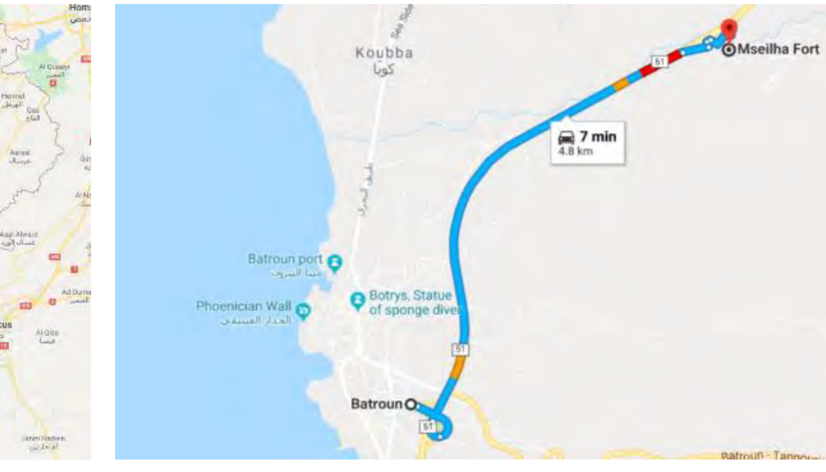
THE MSEILHA FORT is a fortification situated 5.5km north of the city of Batroun in Lebanon. The current fort was built by Emir Fakhreddine II in the 17th century to guard the route from Tripoli to Beirut. The fort is built on a long, narrow limestone rock near the Nahr el-Jawz River.

Its walls are constructed with small sandstone blocks quarried from the nearby coast and built onto the edge of the limestone rock.



Map of Hamat

Location of Hamat



Road map from Batroun to Hamat (Mseilha Fort)

The Mseilha Fort

HAMAT

Visits

- The Mseilha Fort is a fortification situated 5.5 km north of the city of Batroun – panoramic view
- Lady of Nourieh, a Marian shrine called the Lady of Light – panoramic views (1 – 2)

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon





Lady of Nourieh Interior Interior Courtyard

© Ministry of Tourism

View from Lady of Nourieh

ANFEH

ANFEH is among the coastal Phoenician cities and towns that still exist today in Lebanon. Prior to the recent excavation, Anfeh was thought to have been founded around 1300 BC, but the pottery, which dates to 3200 BC, provides compelling evidence that the town was once a much older and significant city in antiquity. The remains of these civilizations include Phoenician and Roman walls, wine presses, mosaics, places of worship, caves, water tanks, and steps.



Map of Anfeh

Location of Anfeh

Road map from Lady of Nourieh (Hamat) to Anfeh



The Phoenician Reservoir



Anfeh Aerial View

ANFEH

Visits

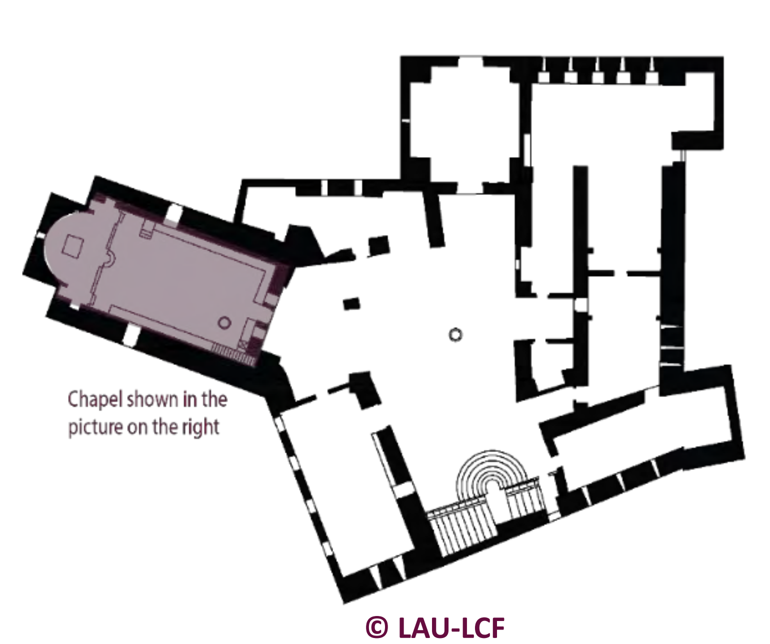
The remains of the civilizations include Phoenician and Roman walls, wine presses, mosaics, places of worship, caves, water tanks, and steps.

- Our Lady of the Wind
- St. Catherine Church
- Al-Qalaa (the Citadel) – panoramic view
- Deir Al-Natour and sea salt bassins – panoramic view

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon


© Ministry of Tourism

Anfeh Beach




© LAU-LCF

Deir Al-Natour Plan


© LebanonUntravelled

Deir Al-Natour (interior view)

ITINERARY 4 - DAY 2: Amioun – Bcharri – Wadi Qadisha

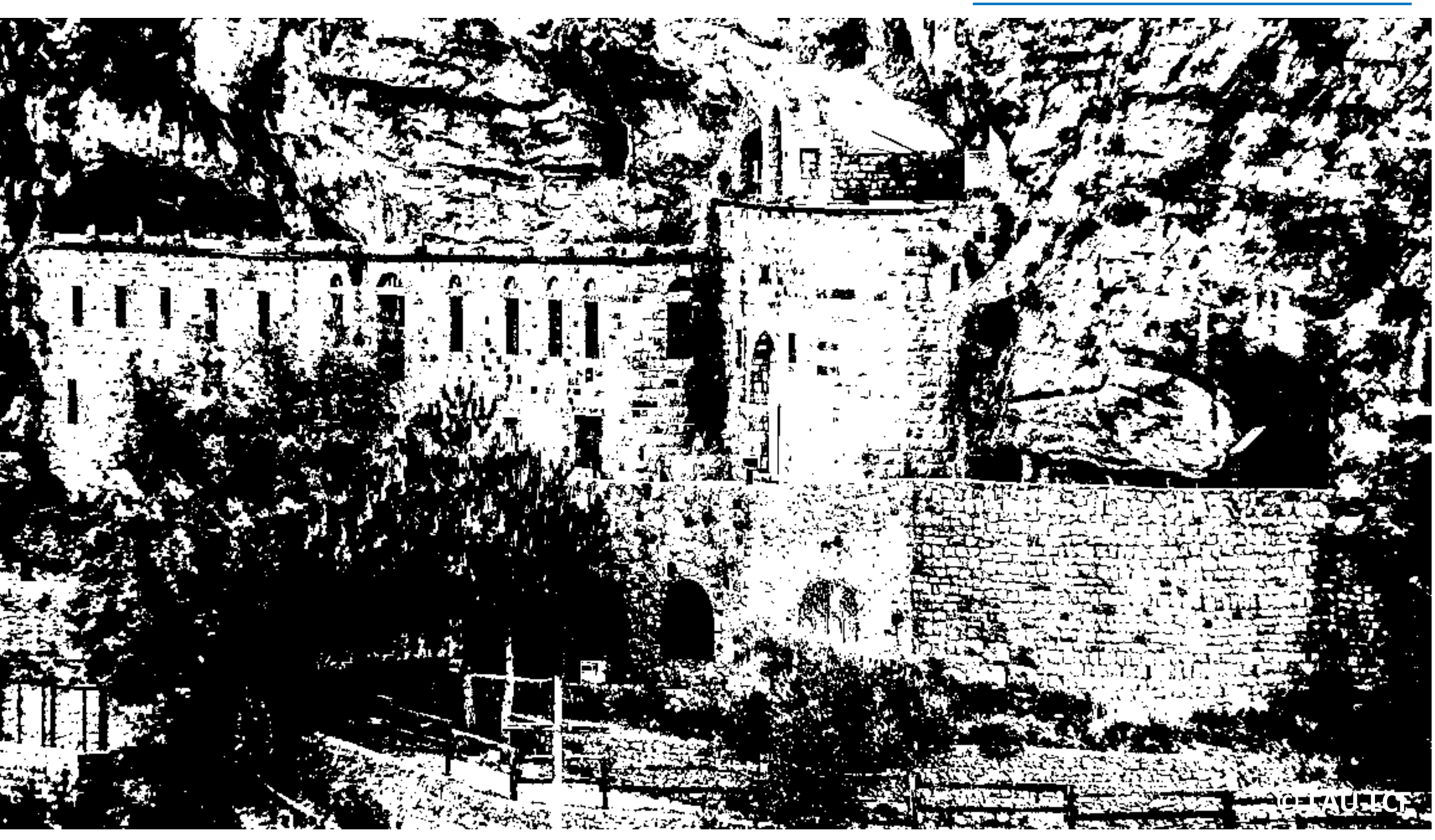
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Menjez
Arqa
Tripoli
Anfeh
Hamat
Amioun
Batroun
Smar Jbeil
Mebaaj Grotto
Jbeil
Wadi Qadisha
Bcharri
BAALBEK
JOUNIEH
BEIRUT
SIDON
TYRE
TOURIST MAP OF LEBANON
Scale = 1 : 200 000
LEGEND

After sleeping-over in Anfeh, DAY 2 ends in Wadi Qadisha, passing by Amioun and Bcharri.

Several places can be visited:

- Phoenician traces
- Natural landscapes
- Museums
- Churches and monasteries
- Forests

Go back to *ITINERARY 4* table










AMIOUN

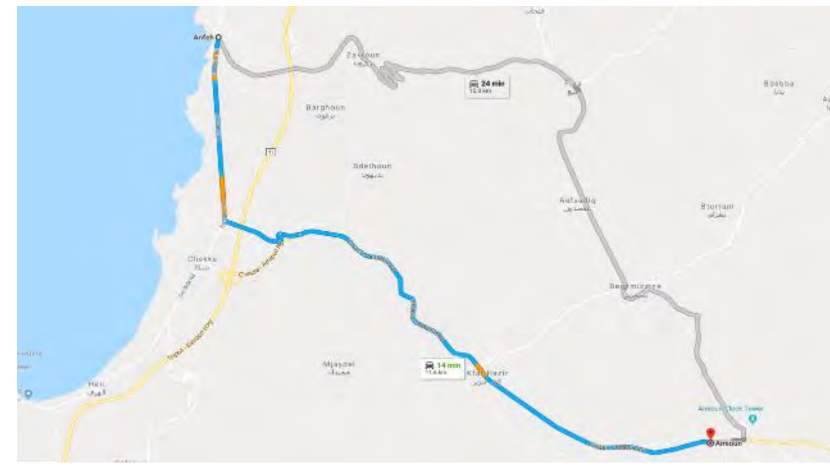
AMIOUN Convent site is a very old settlement whose history can be traced back to the Paleolithic period. This is supported by the number of small caves built in the old city's rocks. The ancient Semitic peoples are thought to have arrived in the region around 4000 B.C. Saint John *"Al-Sheer"* is a church elevated on the rocky cliff over a number of vaults in the southeastern facade of the cliff.



Map of Amioun



Location of Amioun



Road map from Anfeh to Amioun

© Ministry of Tourism

General view of Amioun

AMIOUN

Visits

- Small caves built in the old city's rocks and visit Saint John "Al-Sheer".
- St. George Cathedral
- Temples Greco-Romain
- Saint Phocas Church
- Church of Saint Sergios

© Ministry of Tourism

Amioun Convent Site, Saint John "Al-Sheer"

BCHARRI

BCHARRI is a town to the east of Tripoli. Bcharri is the town of the only remaining and preserved original Cedars of Lebanon (*Cedrus Libani*), and is the birthplace of the famous poet, painter and sculptor Khalil Gibran who now has a museum in the town to honor him.



Map of Bcharri



Location of Bcharri



Road map from Amioun to Bcharri

General View of Bcharri






BCHARRI

Visits

- Infamous Cedar Forest: an ancient grove of cedars and the oldest in Lebanon, makes a beautiful site.
- Gibran Museum: it is dedicated to the Lebanese writer, philosopher, and artist Gibran Kahlil Gibran.
- The Phoenician Tomb.
- Mar Youhanna Adna.
- The Roman Temples - The Roman Statue - Saydet El-Shkeif
- Mar Elias Church and Monastery
- Canaanite Tomb
- Mar Mema
- Saydet El-Dirr



The Phoenician Tomb



Mar Elias Church and Monastery



Gibran Museum











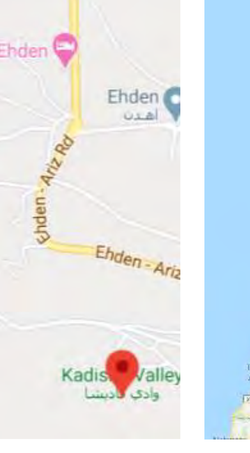
WADI QADISHA

WADI QADISHA is a valley known for being a sacred destination where one can visit several monasteries carved into the sides of its rocky hills.

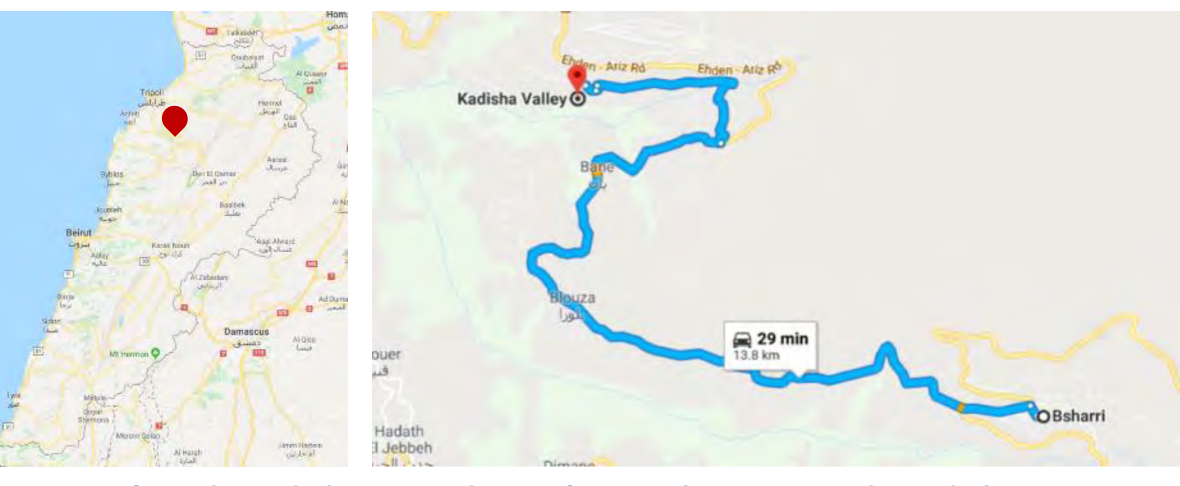
Wadi Qadisha (the Holy Valley) and the Forest of the Cedars heritage sites are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1998) and added the valley to the list of World Heritage Sites because of its importance as the site of some of the earliest Christian monastic settlements in the world, and its continued example of early Christian faith.



Map of Wadi Qadisha



Location of Wadi Qadisha



Road map from Bcharri to Wadi Qadisha

General View of Wadi Qadisha










WADI QADISHA

Visits

- **Sacred destination:**
  - The Qannubin Monastery - panoramic view
  - The Monastery of St. Anthony of Qozhaya
  - The Monastery of Our Lady of Hawqa
  - The Monastery of Mar Sarkis
  - The Monastery of Mar Lishaa, etc…
- Forest of the Cedars heritage sites *“Horsh Arz El-Rab”* – panoramic view
- Qadisha Valley – panoramic view
- Qadisha Valley Hermitage of Hoca – panoramic view



“Horsh Arz El-Rab”



“Horsh Arz El-Rab”

www.lebanoninapicture.com

Monastery of Mar Lishaa

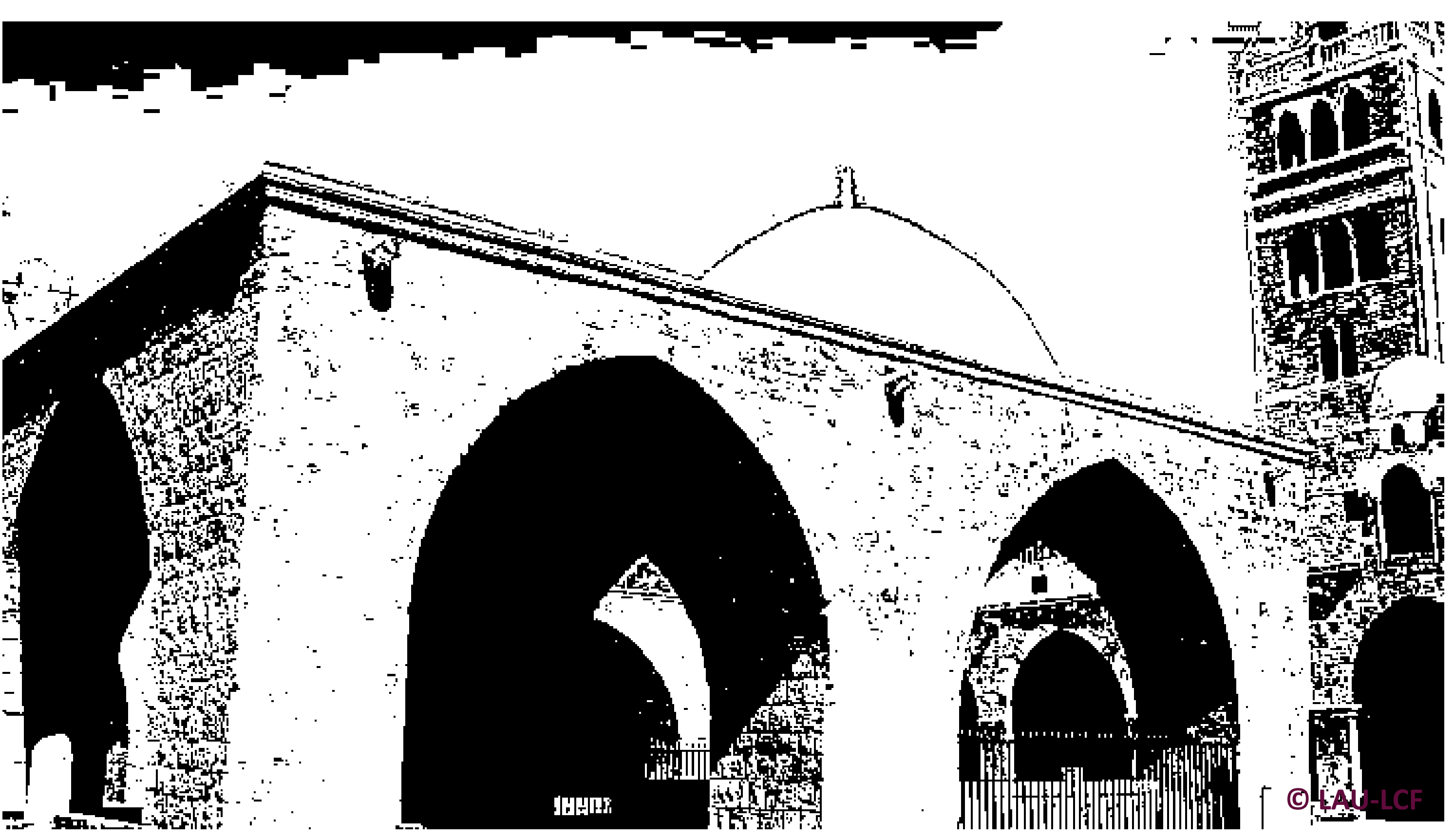
ITINERARY 4 - DAY 3: Tripoli – Arqa – Menjez

After sleeping-over in Wadi Qadisha, DAY 3 ends in Menjez, passing by Tripoli and Arqa.

Several places can be visited:

- Archaeological sites and ruins from different civilizations
- Castles
- Mosques
- Churches
- Khans

Go back to *ITINERARY 4* table









TRIPOLI

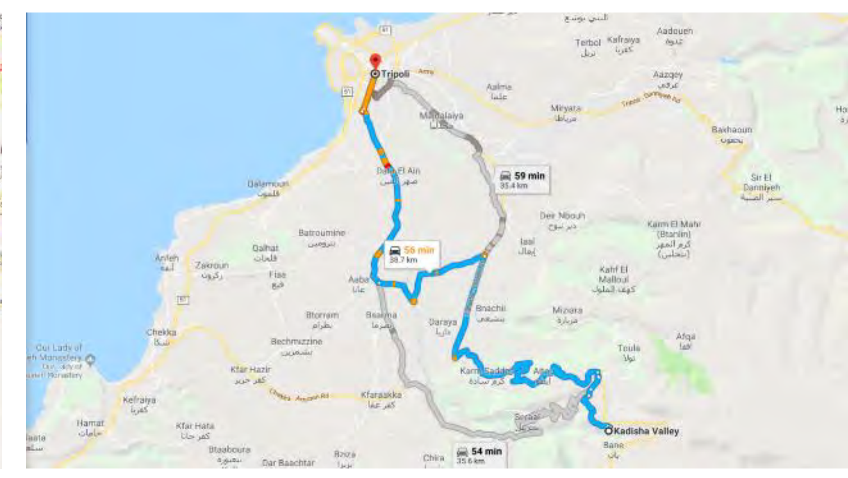
TRIPOLI, founded by the Phoenicians around 800 BC is today the second largest city and main port in Lebanon. Like Beirut, the city witnessed the presence of various Mediterranean cultures and empires including the Canaanites/Phoenicians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Umayyad, Abbasid, Crusaders, Ayyubid, Mamluks, Ottoman and French. Facing the shores of the city there are the Palm Islands, which known for its green turtles, and which was declared a Protected Nature Reserve by the UNESCO in 1992.



Map of Tripoli



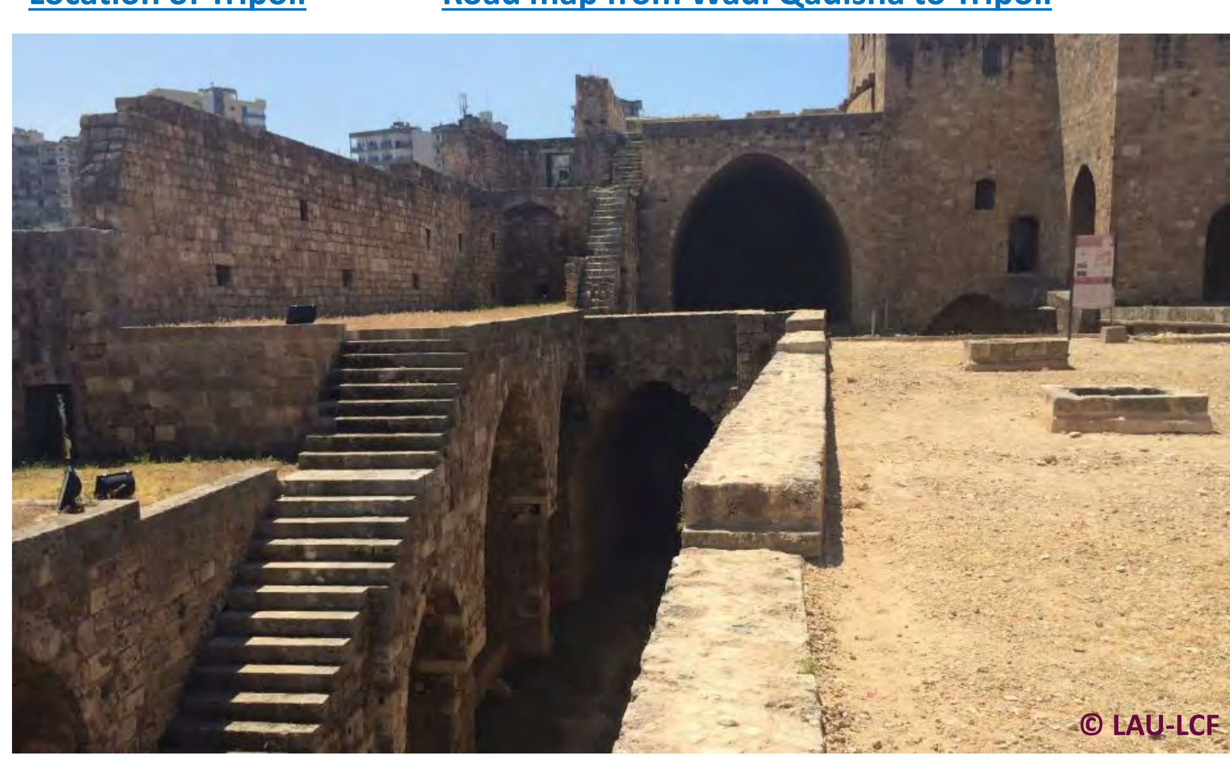
Location of Tripoli



Road map from Wadi Qadisha to Tripoli



Souk Al-Khayatin



The Citadel of Tripoli

TRIPOLI

Visits

- The Taynal Mosque – exterior panoramic view – interior panoramic views (1 – 2)
- Saint-Gilles Citadel
- St. John of Mont-Pelerin Church
- Al-Mansouri Great Mosque
- Al-Bourtassi Mosque and Madrassa – panoramic view
- Abd El-Wahed Mosque
- Al-Ouwaissiya Mosque
- Al-Attar Mosque
- Al-Muallaq Mosque
- Arghoun Shah Mosque
- Al-Qartawiyya Madrassa
- Al-Tawashiyah Madrassa
- Al-Saqraqiyah Madrassa
- Khan Al-Saboun (Soap) – panoramic view
- Khan Al-Khaiyatine (Tailors)
- Khan Al-Askar (Soldiers)
- Souk Al-Haraj
- Hammam Al-Nouri
- Hammam Izz Eddine
- Hammam Al-Jadid
- Clock Tower/Manshieh Park
- The Lion's Tower
- The Train Station



Khan Al-Saboun



Al-Mansouri Great Mosque











ARQA

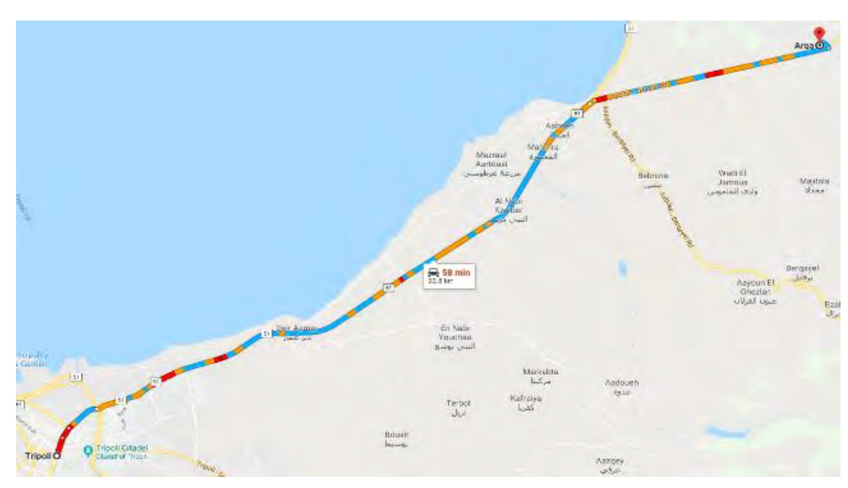
ARQA (Phoenician: *Irqata*; *'Arqat'* in the Bible) is a village near Miniara in Akkar Governorate, Lebanon, 22 km northeast of Tripoli, near the coast. The former bishopric became a double Catholic titular see (Latin and Maronite). The Roman Emperor Alexander Severus was born there. It is significant for the Tell Arqa, an archaeological site that goes back to Neolithic times, and during the Crusades there was a strategically significant castle.



Map of Arqa



Location of Arqa



Road map from Tripoli to Arqa

© LAU-LCF

Archaeological Site

ARQA

Visits

- Tell Arqa archaeological site: *"excavation works carried out by the French expedition since 1972 in the archaeological site, overlooking the Akkar Plain, revealed the remains of lodgings, temples, wells, burial jars, brick, pottery, jewelry and mosaic plates, all dating back to several periods starting from pre-historical ages. Those archaeological remains testify the succession of several civilizations in the Canaanite Phoenician city of Arqa".*

"History of the Lebanese Worldwide Presence, the Phoenician Epoch"
by Dr. Antoine Khoury Harb



Ruins



Mound (Tell) Arqa



Archaeological Site

MENJEZ

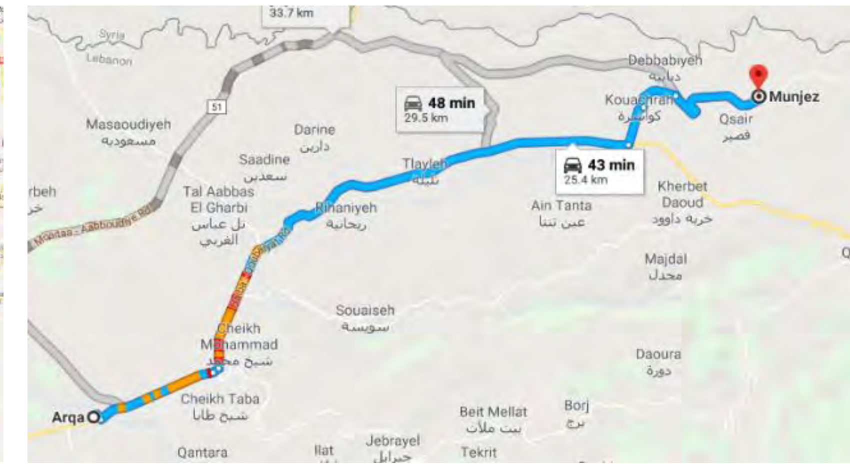
The village of **MENJEZ** is the home to a number of interesting historical, archaeological and religious sites, including: Beit Jaalouk temple (or "*Maqam ar-Rabb*", an ancient roman temple and worship site for the goddess Nemesis, dating from the first century AD); a crusader castle ruins "*Qalaat Felis*" inhabited by the Chevalier de St. Jean de Jerusalem or what is also known as Ordre de Malte, the castle belonged to the Comté de Tripoli; the Maronite Monastery of our Lady of the Fort "*Deir Saydet El Qalaa*" built by the Jesuits Order in the 19th century; remains of a roman canal; and 180 pre-historic tombs dating back to 5,000 years BC. This archaeological diversity and richness gives Menjez the possibility to become and archaeological park for research, education, and tourism.



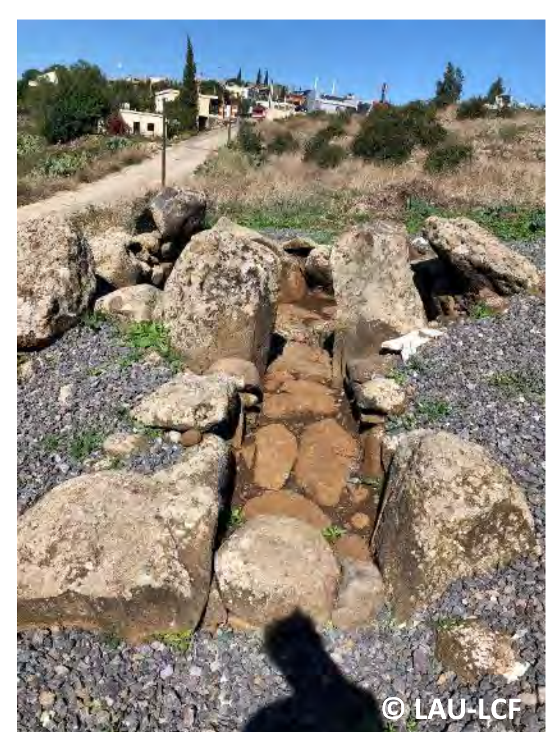
Map of Menjez



Location of Menjez



Road map from Arqa to Menjez



Megalithic Tombs



Menjez Site

MENJEZ

Visits

Architectural Heritage:

- Roman basalt temple called Maqam Er-Rabb or Beit Jaalouk
- Qalaat Feliz
- Saydet El-Qalaa (Lady of the Fort) – panoramic view
- Megalithic Tombs 87 megalithic dolmens marking the site of historic graves dating from about 3000 BC
- The ruins of a Crusader castle, the Felix or the Felicium of the Hospitallers of Saint John of Jerusalem

Natural Heritage:

- Menjez river characterized by its natural pools
- Nahr el-Kebir river running through the border valley between Lebanon and Syria
- El-Horsh el-Assouad, a forest of laurels and oaks that stretches over 485.000 m2

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Ruins in Menjez



Megalithic Tombs



Maqam Er-Rabb








ITINERARY 5 – *Coast To Interior*

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Jbeil

Yanouh

Adonis Valley

Afqa

Baalbek

TOURIST MAP OF LEBANON
Scale = 1 : 200 000
LEGEND

This itinerary starts from Jbeil and ending in Baalbek. It is characterized by being a route from the coast to the interior, passing by Adonis Valley – Yanouh and Afqa.

You can discover several places such as:

- Museums
- Archaeological sites and ruins from different civilizations
- Rivers
- Waterfalls
- Grottos

ITINERARY 5	Jbeil – Adonis Valley – Yanouh – Afqa – Baalbek



JBEIL

JBEIL is believed to have been first occupied between 8800 and 7000 BC and continuously inhabited since 5000 BC, making it one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Map of Jbeil



Location of Jbeil



The Citadel of Jbeil

Jbeil Harbour

JBEIL

Visits

- Archaeological site – panoramic view
- Old Souk – panoramic view
- St. John the Baptist Church – panoramic view
- Medieval City Wall
- The Harbour & Harbour Towers – panoramic views (1 – 2)
- Al Sultan Ibrahim Adham Mosque
- Roman Road – panoramic view (Christmas 2014 – Christmas 2016)
- Roman Nymphaeum
- Saydet Al Bouebeh Church
- Sultan Abd Al Majid Mosque
- Byblos Site Museum
- The Alphabet Museum
- Umayyad Museum


Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Bronze Age City Fortification



The Roman Theater



The Alphabet Museum

ADONIS VALLEY

ADONIS VALLEY is south of Byblos and Jabal Moussa. An Ottoman bridge and a Roman aqueduct cross over the Adonis River. According to legend that is where the Phoenician/Greek god Adonis was killed by a wild boar while hunting.

Jabal Moussa is one of the very few soundings in Lebanon that exists in mountainous areas (hinterland heritage), and was inhabited during the Phoenician/Canaanean Bronze age, Medieval period, and the most recent Ottoman period. Recent excavations were discovered.



Map of Adonis Valley

Location Adonis Valley

Road map from Jbeil to Adonis Valley



Adonis River

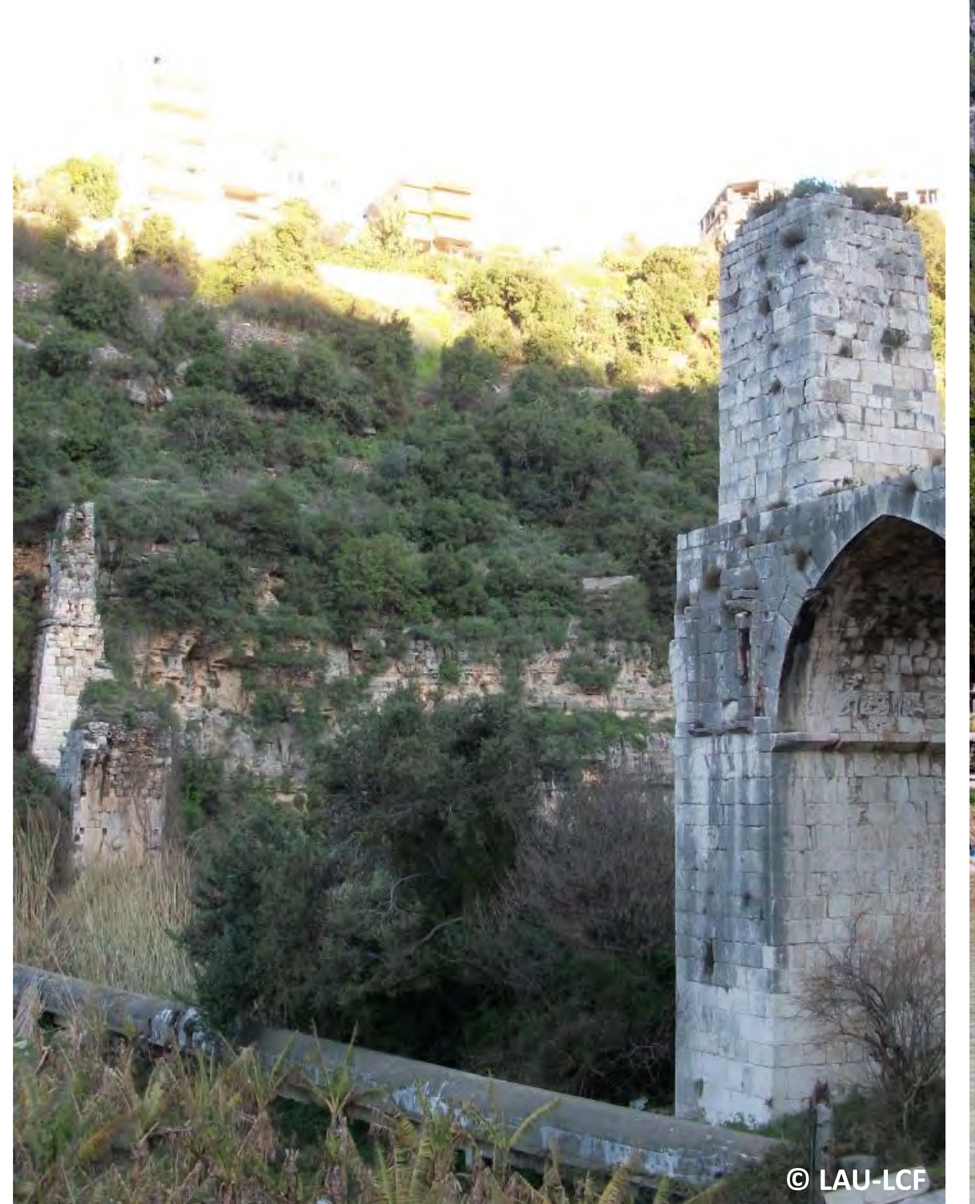


The Aqueduct

ADONIS VALLEY

Visits

- An Ottoman bridge and a Roman aqueduct cross over the Adonis River.
- Hadrian's Inscriptions
- The Roman Stairs
- Mar Geryes Monastery
- The sacrificial well
- The Chouwein Lake



Adonis Valley



Adonis River

YANOUH

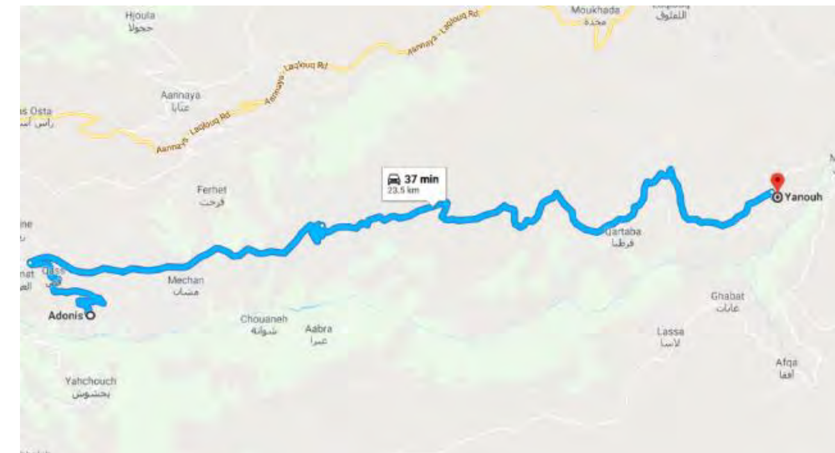
YANOUH, once a Phoenician center, is half-way between Byblos (Jbeil) and Heliopolis (Baalbek). Its Phoenician temple is a monument to the same religion as that of Apheca, but the later Roman temple was dedicated to Diana, the Roman goddess of the hunt and daughter of the god Jupiter.

General view of the village – panoramic view



Map of Yanouh

Location of Yanouh



Road map from Adonis Valley to Yanouh

© DiscoverLebanon

General view of the Village

YANOUH

Visits

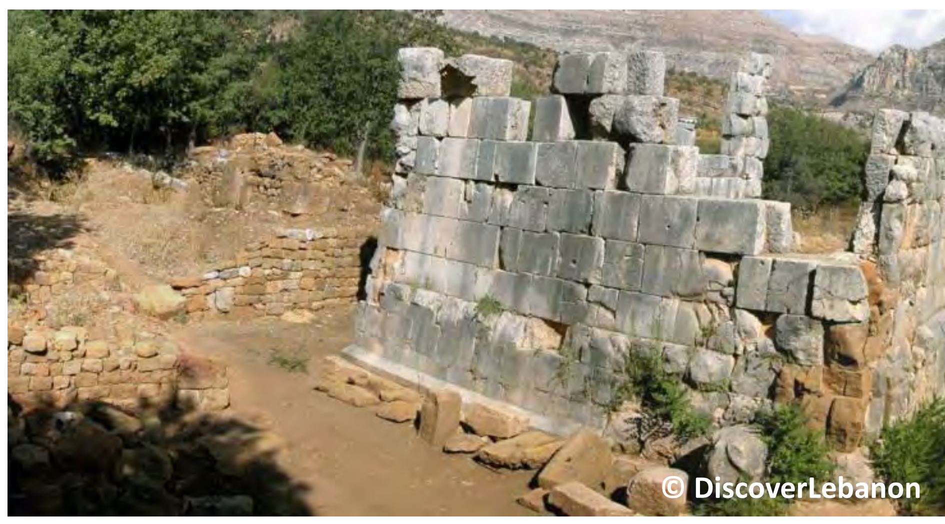
Roman Temple – panoramic view

During the second century a small roman temple was built in the southern sanctuary and at the same period the northern sanctuary with its big temple was erected.

The big Roman Temple converted into a church and a newly built Chapel situated at the northern side. Many other chapels were built in the neighborhood.

The two roman temples were built of blue limestone blocks from which the name "Saint Georges the Blue" was given to the big temple turned into a church.

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon


© DiscoverLebanon


© Ministry of Tourism

© DiscoverLebanon

Yanouh Roman Temple











AFQA

AFQA, Known in ancient times as *Apheca* or *Afeka*, located in the mountains of Lebanon, aligned centrally between Baalbek and Byblos.

It is the site of one of the finest waterfalls in the mountains of the Middle East, which feeds into the Adonis River (known today as Abraham River or Nahr Ibrahim in Arabic), and forms Lake Yammoune, with which it is also associated by legend.

In Greek mythology Adonis was born and died at the foot of the falls in Afqa. The ruins of the celebrated temple of Aphrodite.

Panoramic view of Afqa waterfall.



Map of Afqa



Location of Afqa



Road map from Yanouh to Afqa

Afqa Waterfall

AFQA

Visits

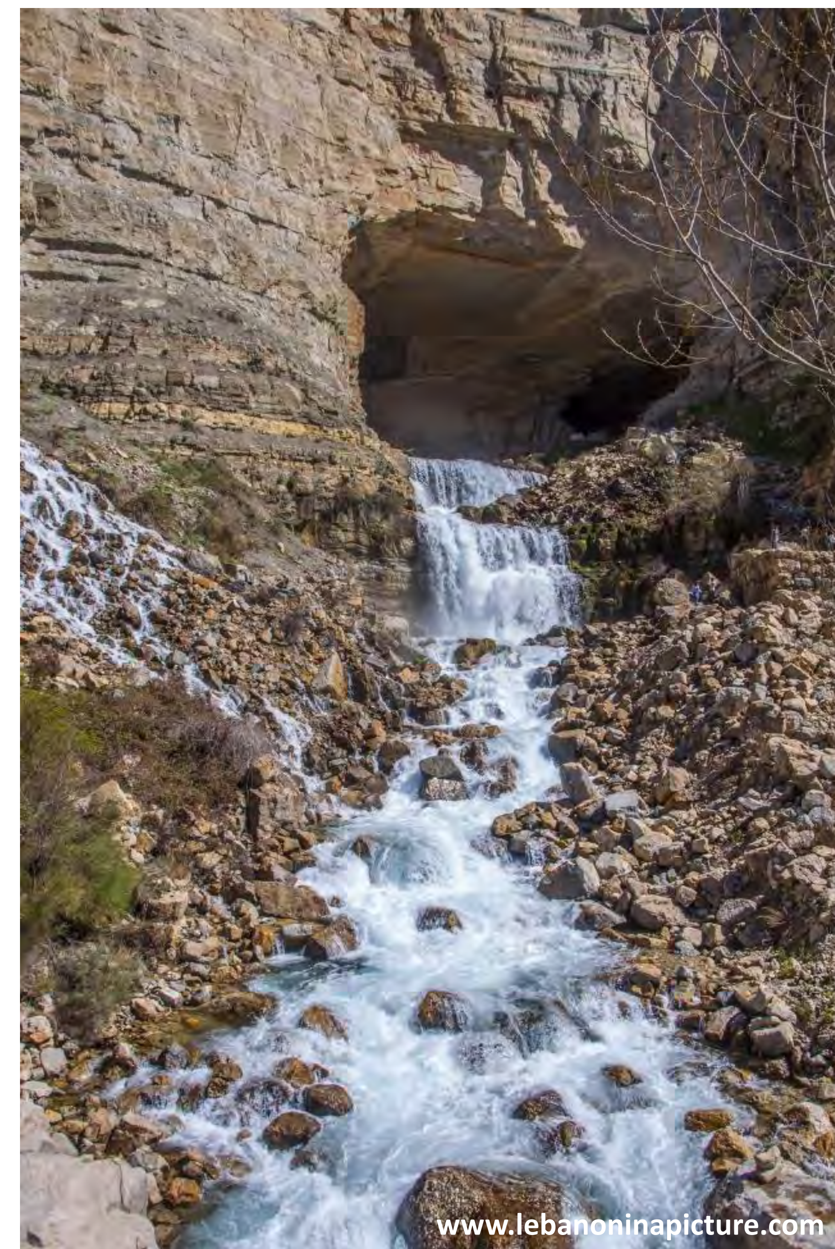
- A site of one of the finest waterfalls in the mountains of the Middle East.
- Ancient ruined walls of a temple once dedicated to Venus, or Aphrodite, her Greek counterpart.
- Afqa grotto



The Waterfall



The Waterfall from the Upper Level



Afqa Grotto

BAALBEK

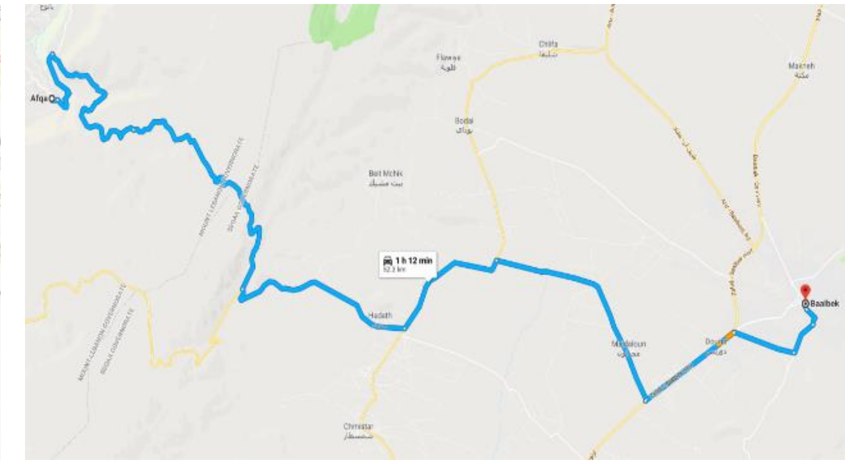
BAALBEK, founded by the Phoenicians, it was later conquered by the Macedonians who called it Heliopolis (always the City of the Sun) for assimilation between the god Sun and the Phoenician divinity Baal. Then it became a Roman colony under Augustus, preserving the new name. Today you can see three main buildings: the temple of Jupiter, the temple of Bacchus and the circular temple of Venus. A fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury is located on the hill of Sheikh Abdallah. inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).



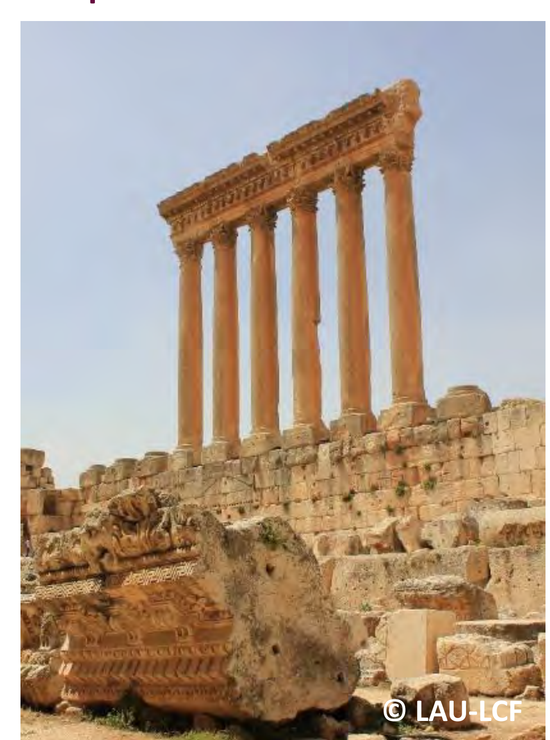
Map of Baalbek



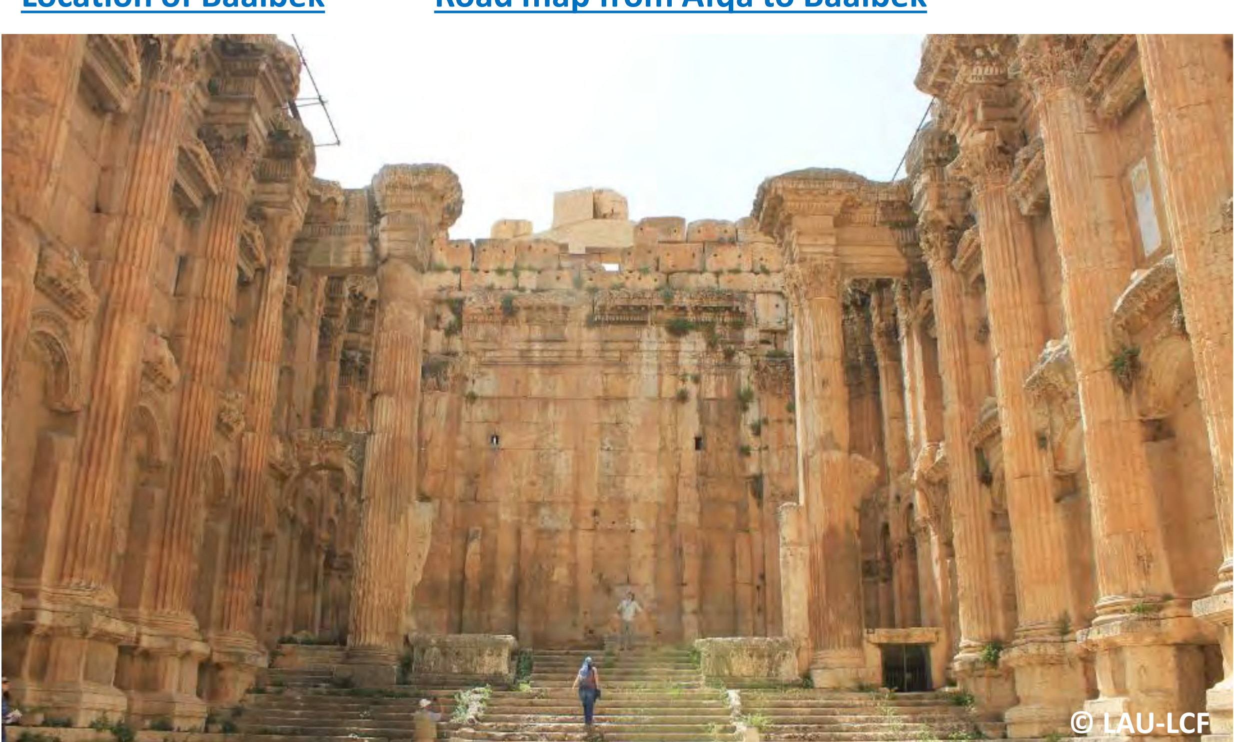
Location of Baalbek



Road map from Afqa to Baalbek



Temple of Jupiter



Cella of the temple of Bacchus





BAALBEK

Visits

- Three main buildings: the Temple of Jupiter, the Temple of Bacchus and the circular Temple of Venus and a fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury. Panoramic views of several monuments (1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6) and stone of the pregnant woman – panoramic view
- Heliopolis
- The Umayyad Mosque or The Great Friday Mosque
- Qubbat Al Sa'idayn
- Qubbat Douris
- Ras El Ain Spring
- Ras Al Imam Al Hussein Mosque
- Al Barbara Mosque
- The Shrine of Al Sayyida Khawla - panoramic view
- Cathedral of Fakieh – panoramic view
- Our Lady of Beshwet – panoramic views (1 – 2)




Temple of Bacchus



Temple of Venus

The Umayyad Mosque or The Great Friday Mosque











ITINERARY 6 – *Coast, Interior, and Back to the Coast Route*

This itinerary is composed of 4 days; it starts from Jounieh and ends in Umm Al-Amad. In this itinerary, there are several sleep overs such as Barouk, Sidon, Jezzine.

You can discover several places such as:

- Museums
- Archaeological sites and ruins from different civilizations
- Natural reserves
- Waterfalls
- Grottos
- Old souks
- Religious landmarks

ITINERARY 6	**DAY 1:** Jounieh – Nahr El-Kalb – Mtein – Hammana – Barouk **DAY 2:** Beiteddine – Deir El-Qamar – Sidon **DAY 3:** Echmoun – Chhim – Jezzine **DAY 4:** Maghdouche – Sarafand – Tyre – Umm Al-Amad *(upon availability)*

ITINERARY 6 – DAY 1: Jounieh – Nahr El-Kalb – Mtein – Hammana – Barouk

MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Jounieh
Nahr El-Kalb
Mtein
Hammana
Barouk
Deir El-Qamar
Beiteddine
Chhim
Echmoun
Sidon
Maghdouche
Jezzine
Sarafand
Tyre
Umm Al-Amad

DAY 1 starts from Jounieh and ends in Barouk, passing by Nahr El-Kalb, Mtein and Hammana.

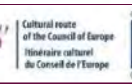
Several places to visit:

- Grottos
- Old souks
- Religious landmarks

Go back to *ITINERARY 6* table









JOUNIEH

- **JOUNIEH**, during the Phoenician period, the bay of Jounieh was an important winter shelter for ships sailing from the south to Byblos; hence, its name Palaebyblus (literary before Byblos). It is mentioned in the geography described in Strabo.
  The Geography of Strabo by Strabo

- **Jounieh panoramic views:**
  - The bay of Jounieh
  - The bay of Jounieh as seen from the sea
  - The Old Souk
  - The Sea Road

- General video about Jounieh

Panoramic views & the video are © DiscoverLebanon



Map of Jounieh



Location of Jounieh



Jounieh Bay



Jounieh Old Souk

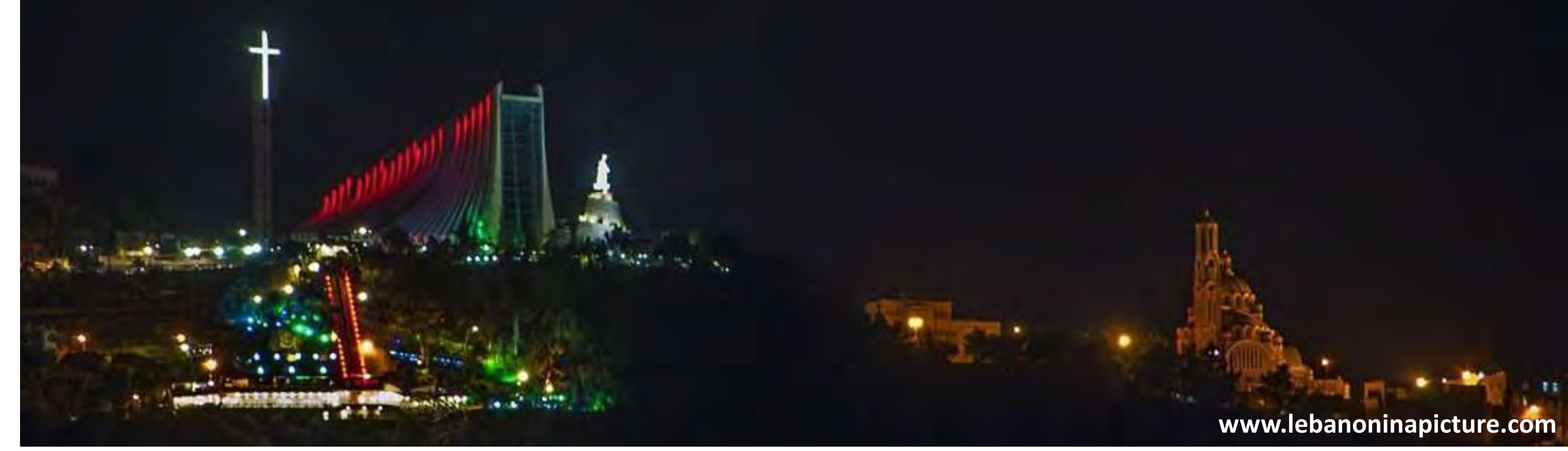
JOUNIEH

Visits

- The Phoenicians' Museum: The Municipality of Jounieh, as active member of the Phoenicians' Route, donated a historical building in the old souk of Jounieh that will be transformed into a Phoenicians' Route Museum. It is a project in process.
- Important winter shelter for ships sailing from the south to Byblos.
- St. Georges Garden
- St. Savior Orthodox Convent (Phoenician temple).
- Archaeological Museum of USEK.
- Jeita Grotto.
  Jeita Grotto panoramic views:
  - Lower cave (1)
  - Upper cave (1 – 2 – 3)
- Ancient Lycus River (Nahr El-Kalb).
- Harissa panoramic views:
  - Harissa interior view of the cathedral
  - Harissa outdoor views (1 – 2)



St. Georges Garden



Harissa and St. Paul Cathedral at Night

NAHR EL-KALB

NAHR EL-KALB is the ancient Lycus River. Past generals and conquerors have traditionally built monuments at the mouth of the Nahr El-Kalb, known as the Commemorative stelae of Nahr El-Kalb. In 2005, the stelae at the river were listed in the UNESCO Memory of the World initiative.

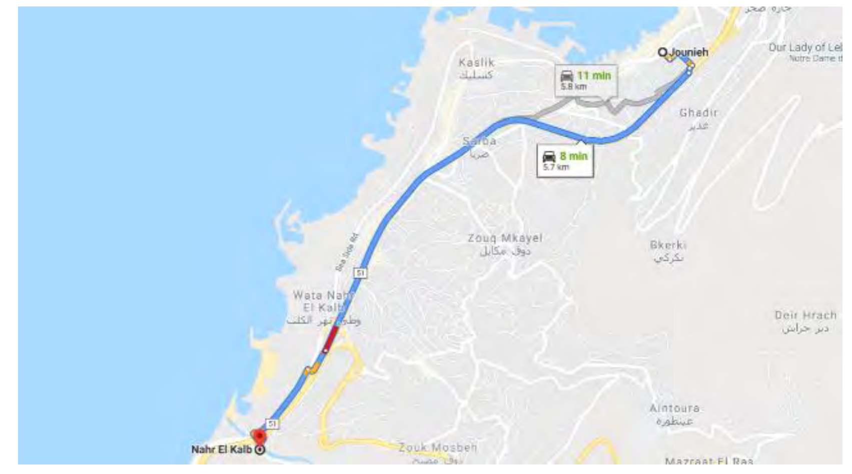
Panoramic views:

- Nahr El-Kalb – the river
- Nahr El-Kalb – the steles





Location of Nahr El-Kalb



Road map from Jounieh to Nahr El-Kalb

© DiscoverLebanon

Commemorative stelae of Nahr El-Kalb

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon

NAHR EL-KALB

Visits

- Runs from a spring in Jeita near the Jeita Grotto to the Mediterranean Sea.
  Jeita Grotto panoramic views:
  - Lower cave (1)
  - Upper cave (1 – 2 – 3)

Lower Cave












MTEIN

Originally home to seven factories, **MTEIN** was known for its abundant berry production and silk manufacturing.

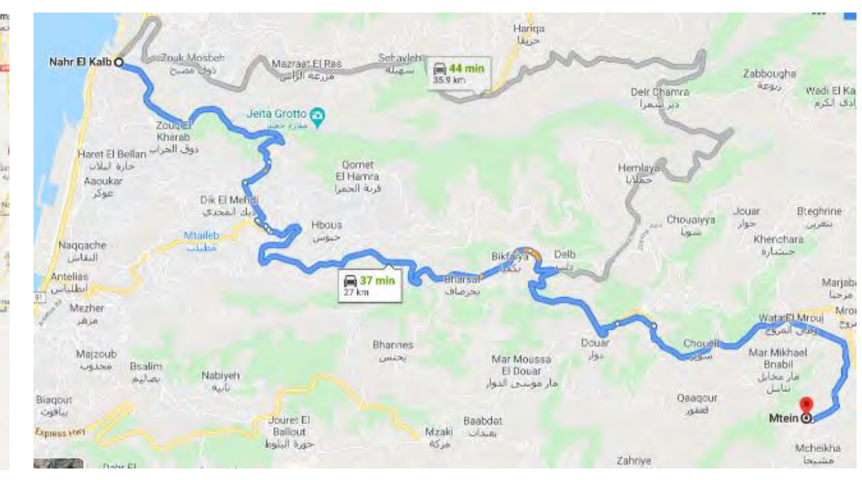
Today, what you can still see are the ruins of only one silk factory, which stands defiantly.



Map of Mtein



Location of Mtein



Road map from Nahr El-Kalb to Mtein

Part of Mtein Square

MTEIN

Visits

- Old silk factories
- Mtein Museum of Arts
- Museum of George Khairallah
- Mitein's Main Square or *"The Midane"* of the emirs Abillama with its four palaces dating from the 17th century – panoramic view
- Mar Jerges church built in the 17th century
- Mar Youhanna el Maamadane church built in 1860
- El-Saïdeh church built in 1700
- The Byzantine and Roman ruins of Msaïka, with large blocks cut in the rock, located on the eastern outskirts of the village
- The ruins of a 19th century silk farm
- The traditional stone houses
- The ruins of wine presses and wineries






Another Part of Mtein Square



Doorway leading into one of the five Abilama palaces

HAMMANA

The word "**HAMMANA**" may have come from the name of the Phoenician Sun God "*Hammon*" or "*Hamman*". These two names are derived from the word "*Hama*" which means heat of the sun.

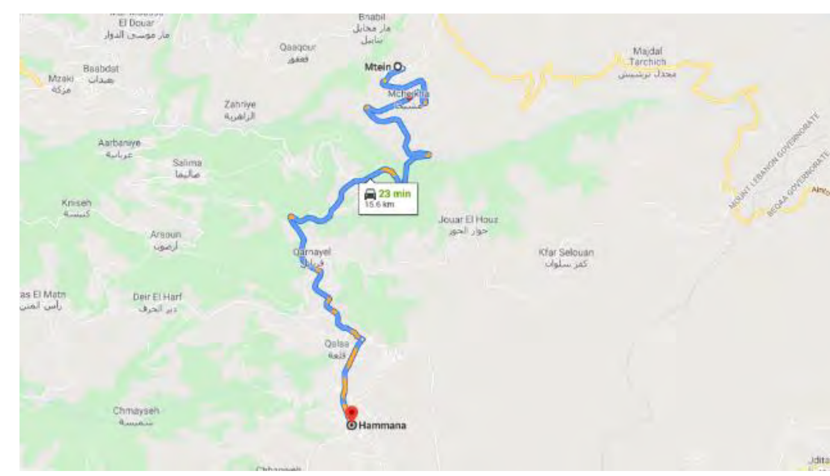
The village has multiple water sources like the Shaghour fall, Ain-al-Hosa spring, Al-Kadaneh spring, Ain Soltan spring, Ain Maytri spring and many more. Evergreen trees such as pines, firs, spruce as well as some cedar trees are found everywhere in the town.



Map of Hammana



Location of Hammana



Road map from Mtein to Hammana



Hammana Aerial View

HAMMANA

Visits

- Multiple water sources, natural evergreen trees.
- Lebanese houses’ architecture.

Mouhen in Hammana

BAROUK

BAROUK is a village in the Chouf District of Lebanon. Historically, the village is known for being the “*land of good*”, because of its fountain (*Nabeh-el-Barouk*).

Barouk is crowned by its mountain “Jabal el Barouk” that stands 1943 m above sea level. The mountain also has the largest natural reserve in Lebanon, the Al Shouf Cedar Nature Reserve, and contains the oldest and most elegant cedar forest in Lebanon, the *“Cedrus Libani”.*

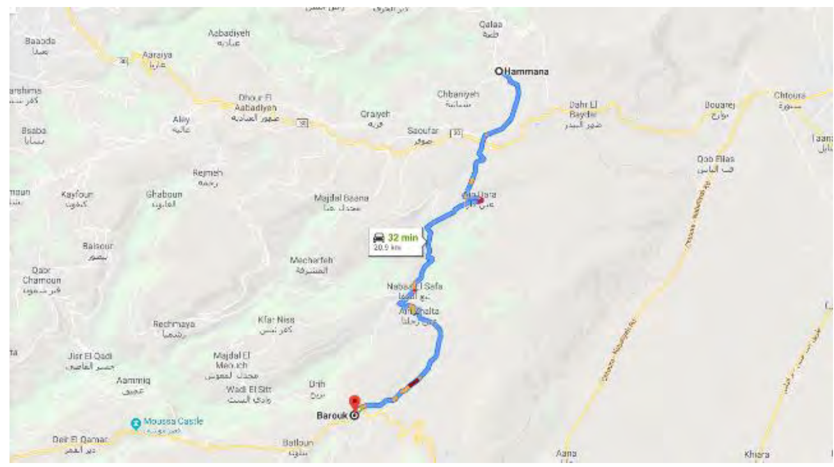
That cedar is considered, among with other cedar forests, the real Cedars of Lord *“Arz el Rab.”*



Map of Barouk



Location of Barouk



Road map from Hammana to Barouk

© Ministry of Tourism

Barouk Natural Reserve

BAROUK

Visits

- Largest natural reserve in Lebanon, the Al-Shouf Cedar Nature Reserve - panoramic views (1 – 2)
- Many pine and oak forests.

Walking Barouk Natural Reserve

ITINERARY 6 – DAY 2: Beiteddine – Deir El-Qamar – Sidon

After spending the night in Barouk, DAY 2 leads to Sidon, passing by Beiteddine and Deir El-Qamar.

You can visit several places:

- Historical places
- Castles
- Museums
- Khans

Go back to *ITINERARY 6* table

BEITEDDINE

BEITEDDINE is a small town and the administrative capital of the Chouf District. The town is located near the town of Deir el-Qamar from which it is separated by a steep valley.

The town is well known for the Beiteddine Palace, which hosts the annual Summer Beiteddine Festival.

Beiteddine Panoramic views:

- The palace
- Room of emir’s minister Boutros Karamic

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Map of Beiteddine

Location of Beiteddine

Road map from Barouk to Beiteddine

© Ministry of Tourism

Beiteddine

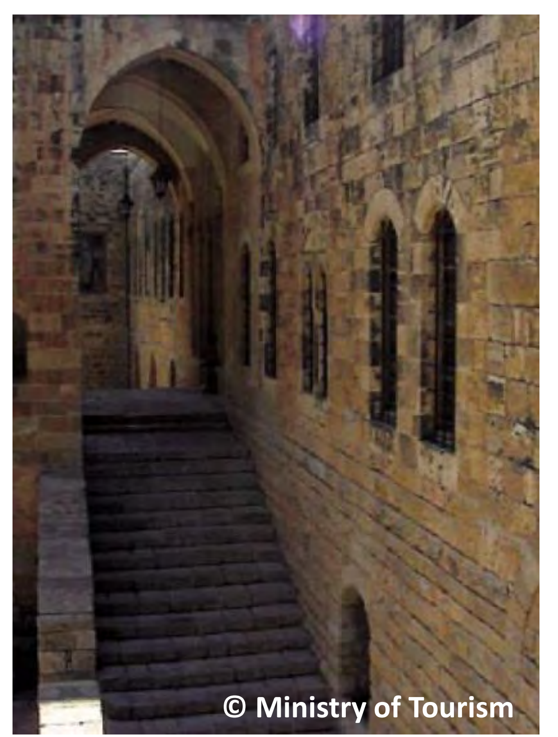
BEITEDDINE

Visits

- Mamluk inspired Fakhreddine Mosque
- The Youssef Chehab Palace
- The Kharj Barracks
- The Palace of Fakhreddine II Ma'ani, its Synagogue
- The Emir Bashir Palace


© LAU-LCF

Dar Al-Kataba


© Ministry of Tourism

The Stairway (Entrance)


© Ministry of Tourism

The Entrance


© Ministry of Tourism

The Main Gate, Al-Midan

DEIR EL-QAMAR

During the 16th to 18th centuries, **DEIR AL-QAMAR** was the capital and the residence of the Emirate of Mount Lebanon.

It is also notable for its 15th-century Fakhreddine Mosque, Fakhreddine II Palace, and the palace of the Emir Yusuf Shihab.

The 17th century Deir al-Qamar Synagogue is also in the village, although closed to the public. During its peak, the city was the Centre of Lebanese literary tradition.

Deir El-Qamar Square – panoramic view

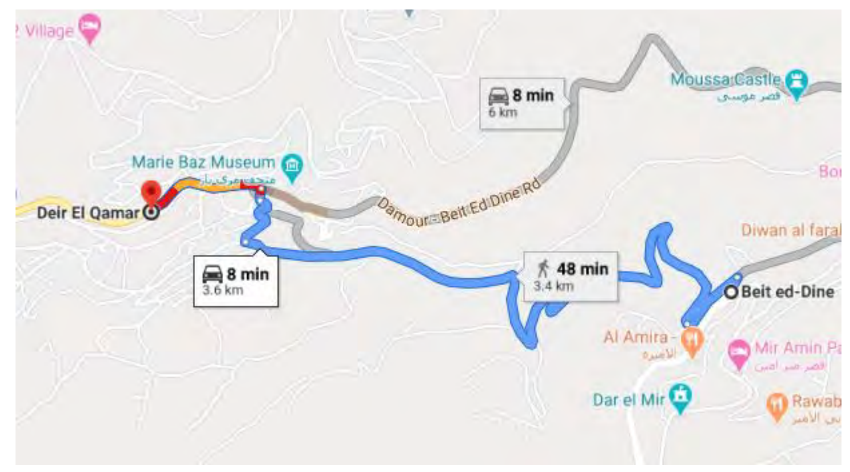
Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Map of Deir El-Qamar



Location of Deir El-Qamar



Road map from Beiteddine to Deir El-Qamar

www.lebanoninapicture.com

Deir El-Qamar Square

DEIR EL-QAMAR

Visits

- Saydet El-Talle Church
- The Kaissariyeh
- Traditional houses' architecture



Traditional houses Architecture

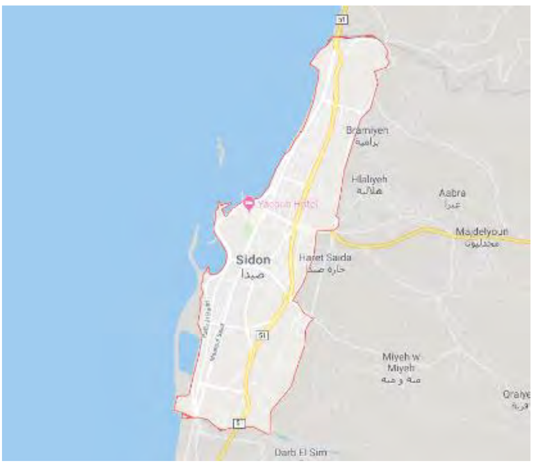


General View

SIDON

SIDON is known for its multi-layered sea citadel. Founded in the fourth millennium BC, it is one of three major port city-states of the Canaanite/Phoenician epoch, cited 35 times in the Old Testament. In its long history, it has been home to the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Crusaders, Mamluks and Ottomans.

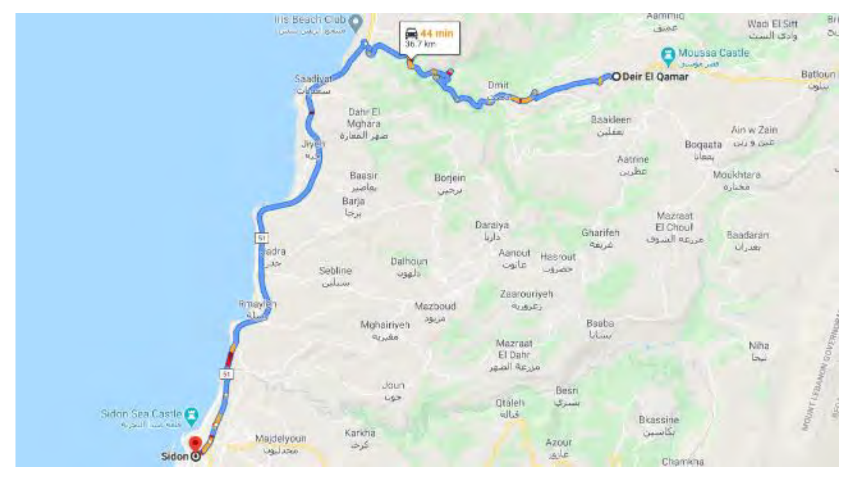
Sidon's Sea Castle - Panoramic view



Map of Sidon



Location of Sidon



Road map from Deir El-Qamar to Sidon

© LAU-LCF

Sidon's Sea Castle

SIDON

Visits

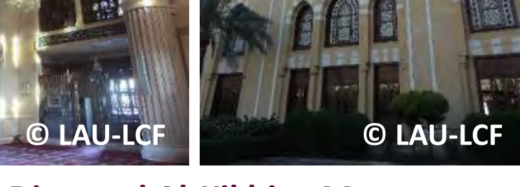
- Sidon's Sea Castle
- Temple of Echmoun – panoramic view
- Old Souk
- Debbane Palace
- Sidon Soap Museum - panoramic view
- Khan Al-Franj – panoramic view
- Bahaa El-Dine and Al-Kikhiya Mosques
- St. Nicolas Church
- Al-Omari Mosque – panoramic view



Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon









Bahaa El-Dine and Al-Kikhiya Mosques





The Sea Citadelle

The Sea Citadelle





Khan Al-Franj



St. Nicolas Church

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

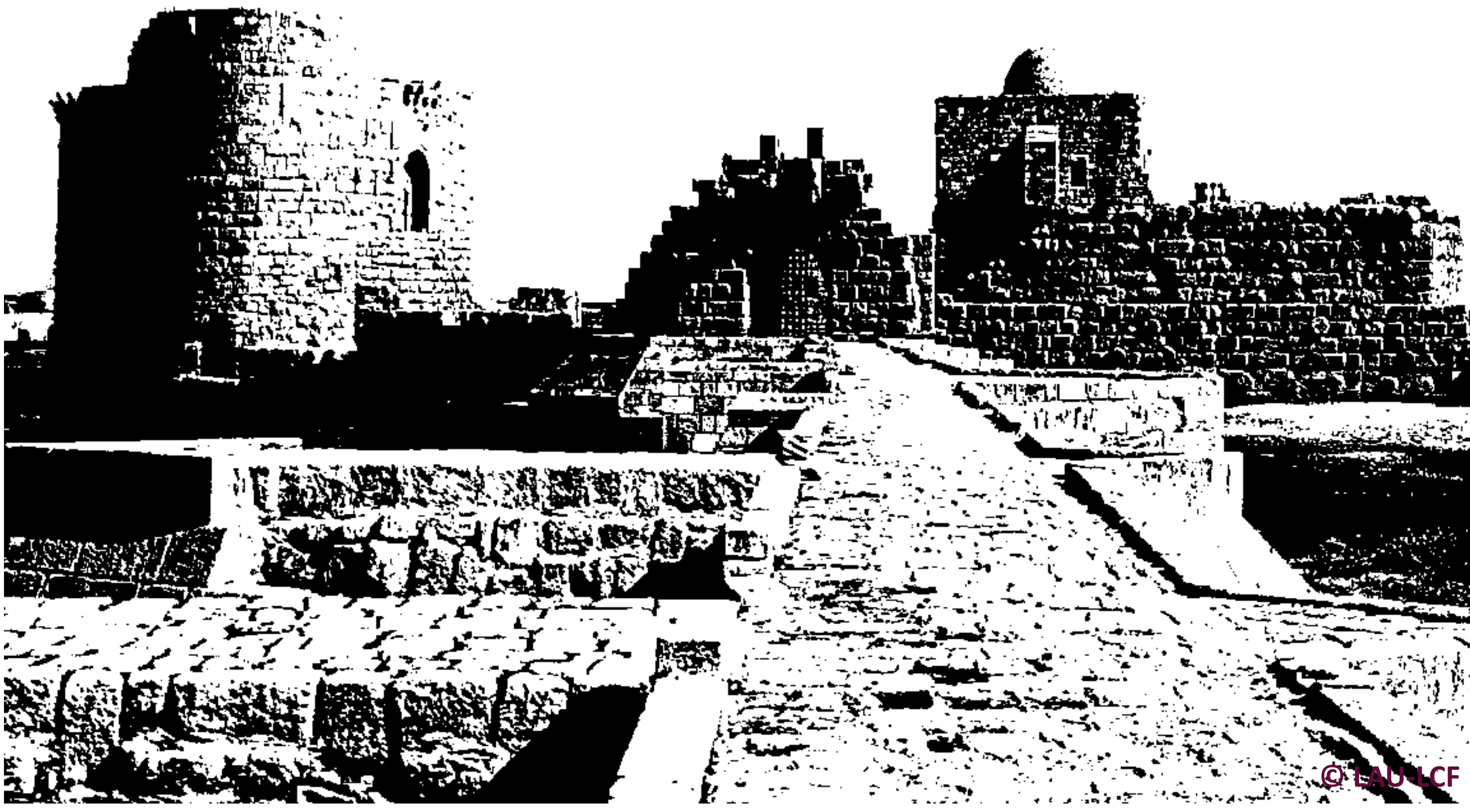
TRIPOLI
ANFEH
BATROUN
BYBLOS
Jounieh
Nahr El-Kalb
BEIRUT
Mtein
Hammana
Barouk
BAALBEK
Deir El-Qamar
Beiteddine
Chhim
Echmoun
Sidon
Maghdouche
Jezzine
Sarafand
Tyre
Umm Al-Amad
TOURIST MAP OF LEBANON
Scale = 1 : 200 000
LEGEND

DAY 3 starts from Sidon and ends in Jezzine, passing by Chhim

Several places to visit:

- Archaeological sites
- Temples
- Waterfalls

Go back to *ITINERARY 6* table



ECHMOUN

ECHMOUN, a Phoenician temple dedicated to the god of healing (hence the name), is located at the entrance of Sidon. It is considered one of the best-preserved Phoenician temples in Lebanon.

Temple Echmoun – panoramic view



Map of Echmoun



Location of Echmoun



Road map from Sidon to Echmoun

Ruins of Echmoun Temple

ECHMOUN

Visits

- One of the best-preserved Phoenician temples in Lebanon. Building it was begun at the end of the 6th century BCE during the reign of Eshmunazar II, and later additions were made up into the Roman period. It was excavated by Maurice Dunand in 1963-1978. Many votive offerings were found in the form of statues of persons healed by the god, especially babies and young children.



Ruins of Echmoun Temple



Mosaic in Echmoun Temple











ITINERARY 6 - DAY 3: Echmoun – Chhim – Jezzine

CHHIM

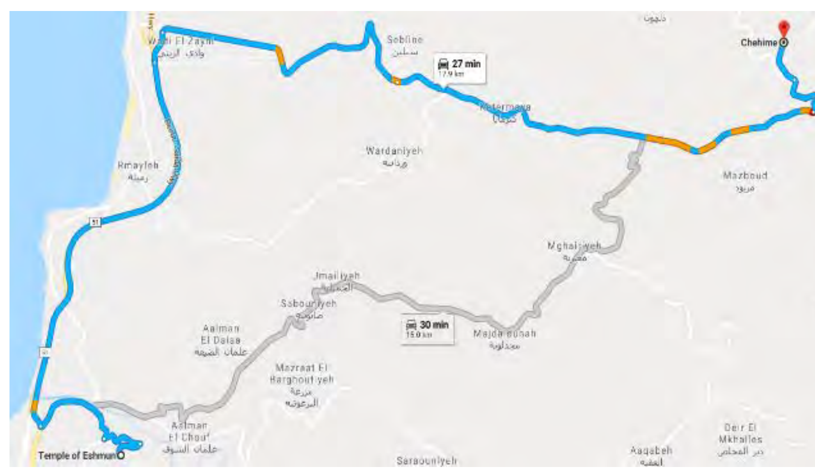
CHHIM has several landmarks around it, like The Temple of Eshmun which is an ancient place of worship dedicated to Eshmun, the Phoenician god of healing. It is located near the Awali river. The site was occupied from the 7th century BCE to the 8th century CE, suggesting an integrated relationship with the nearby city of Sidon.



Map of Chhim



Location of Chhim



Road map from Echmoun to Chhim

Chhim Roman temple

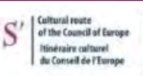
CHHIM

Visits

- Temple of Chhim
- Press building for olive

Chhim Roman temple

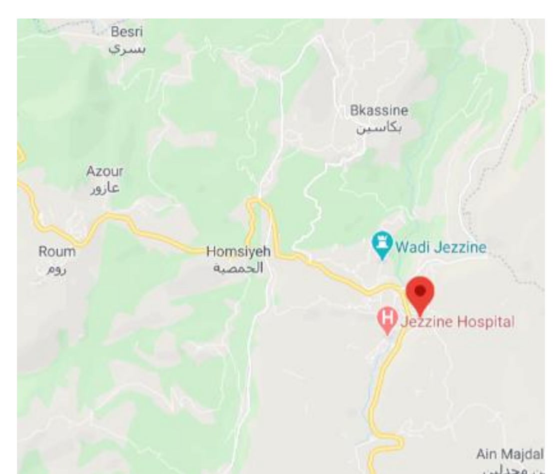




JEZZINE

Meticulously sculpted by Youssef Ghossoub, the Statue of the Virgin Mary stands at the west entrance of **JEZZINE** overlooking the villages of Bkassine, Wadi Jezzine, the Bkassine Pine Forest and the waterfall. It's religious significance and cultural icon has become a key point in the region with vast natural landscapes surrounding it. In her hand, the Virgin Mary holds the key to the town of Jezzine. The view from there is fantastic and it is a great spot to take panoramic pictures.



Map of Jezzine



Location of Jezzine



Road map from Chhim to Jezzine

Jezzine Pine Forest

JEZZINE

Visits

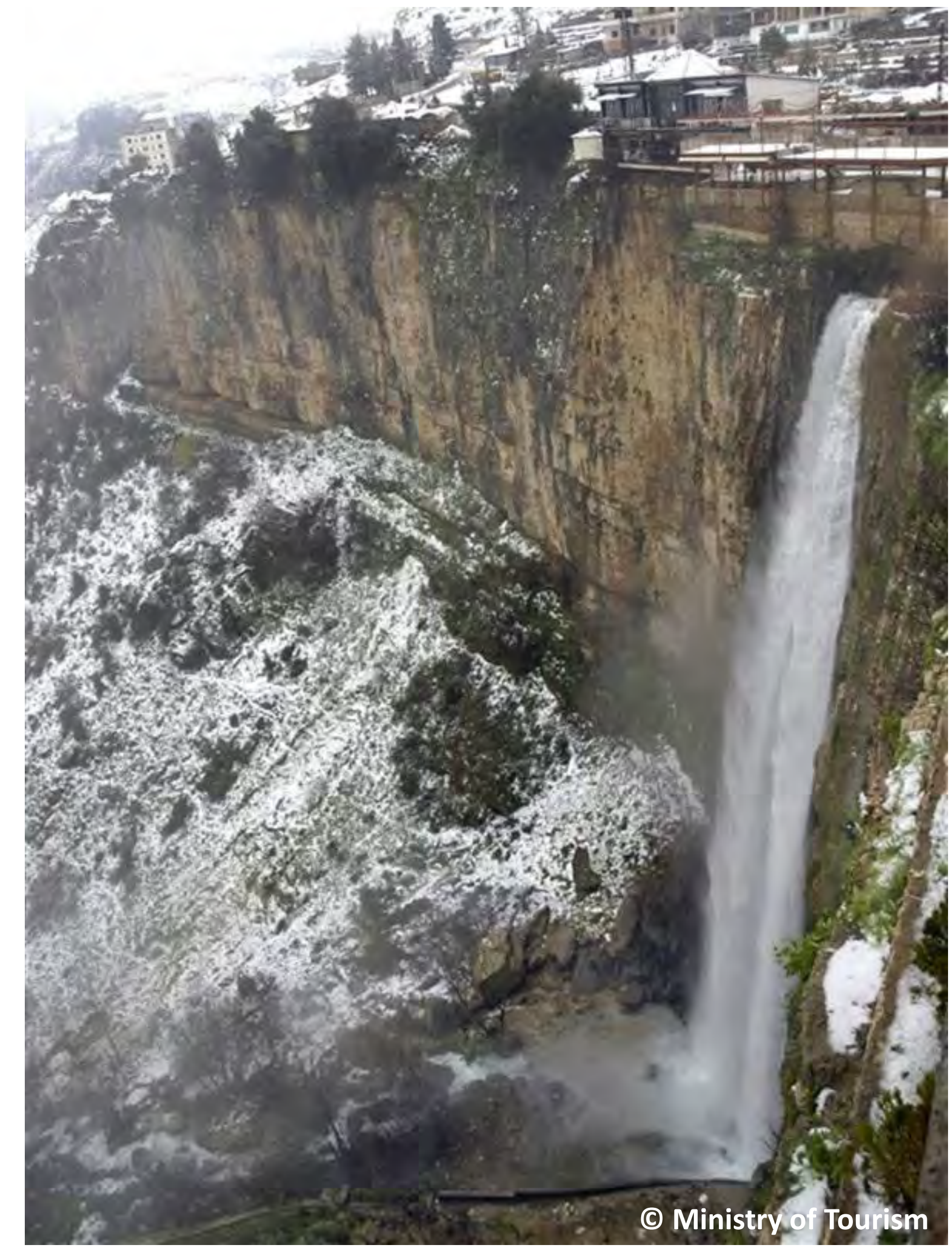
- **Religious Landmarks:** At the main entrance of the town stands 'Saydet El Maabour' (Our Lady of Jezzine) shrine.

- **The waterfalls:** this mountainous town has a lot to offer from its location between the mountains and valleys, situated in the middle of the biggest pine trees forest in the country. Going in winter or spring gives you the chance to see the waterfalls at their best. Some can be as high as 74m (the highest in Lebanon) going down the 'chir' (cliff). From that Jezzine got the title of "*Arousit El Chellel*" (Bride of the Fall).

- **Fakhreddine grotto:** Fakhreddine Grotto is only 10 minutes far from the main waterfall. In the 17th century, Prince Fakhreddine took refuge in this grotto to escape the Ottoman soldiers. He was later captured.



Mandaloon, a Typical Architecture Style in Jezzine



Jezzine Waterfalls

After spending the night in Jezzine, DAY 4 starts from Jezzine and ends in Umm Al-Amad.

Several places to visit such as:

- Religious landmarks
- Archaeological sites
- Ruins from different civilizations.

Go back to *ITINERARY 6* table








ITINERARY 6 – DAY 4: Maghdouche – Sarafand – Tyre – Umm Al-Amad *(upon availability)*

MAGHDOUCHE

MAGHDOUCHE is known for Our Lady of the Guard Church containing a grotto, believed to be the place where the Virgin Mary stayed while Jesus visited the surrounding cities of the south.



Map of Maghdouche



Location of Maghdouche



Road map from Jezzine to Maghdouche

Lady of the Guard Church

MAGHDOUCHE

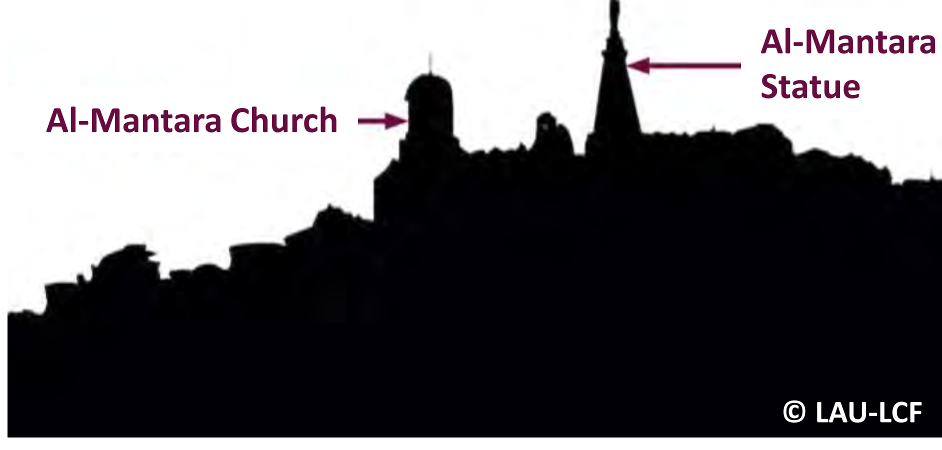
Visits

- Known for Our Lady of the Guard Church containing a grotto – interior panoramic view
- Al-Mantara Church – panoramic view
- Al-Mantara Cave
- Al-Mantara Statue – panoramic view
- Burried Byzantine Ruins

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon




Al-Mantara Statue



Location of Al-Mantara Church and Al-Mantara Statue



Al-Mantara Church

SARAFAND

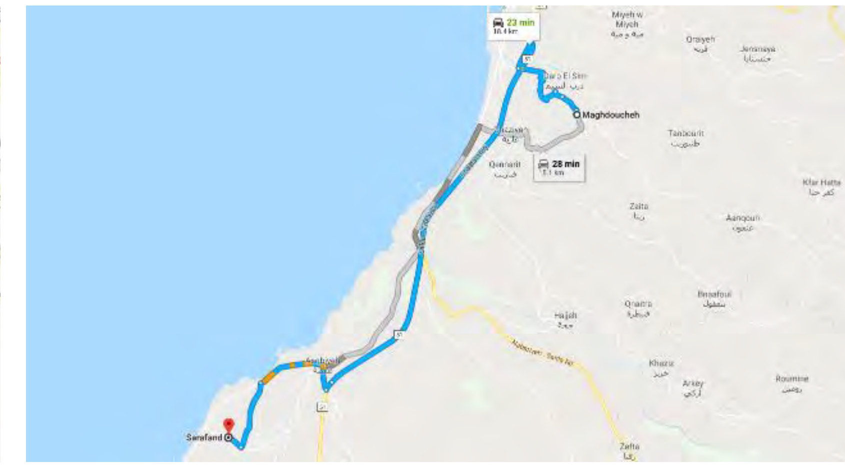
SARAFAND (Sarepta), is a major Phoenician site located between Sidon and Tyre. Presently it is now a fishing shore and a touristic attraction because of its restaurants. The site was well studied and excavated in 1969-1974, by the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania. Some of the finds are now in the National Museum of Beirut.



Map of Sarafand



Location of Sarafand



Road map from Maghdouche to Sarafand



Abbas Al-Khodr Mosque



Shrine of Abu Abou Zar al-Ghafari

SARAFAND

Visits

- Major Phoenician site located between Sidon and Tyre.
- Ottoman Harbor
- Shrine of Abu Abou Zar Al-Ghafari
- Mosque of Abbas Al-Khodr

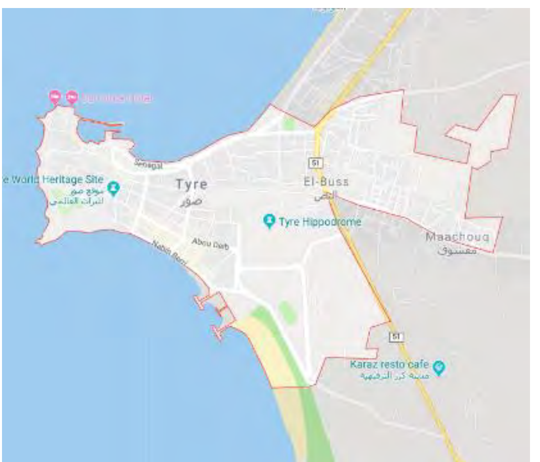
Ottoman Harbor

TYRE

TYRE, built around 2700 BC, it is the home of Elissar, the Phoenician princess who founded Carthage, as well as the home of Europa who was abducted by Zeus disguised as a white bull.

Two main archaeological sites - Al Bass and Al Mina - are a testimony to its historical significance. Tyre was originally made up of two settlements – one on the mainland and the other on an island – the two cities are related to a causeway.

Moreover, there is a Phoenician Museum in Tyre, a patrimonial and maritime museum relating the history of ancient Tyre and its relation with the sea.



Map of Tyre

Location of Tyre

Road map from Sarafand to Tyre

© LAU-LCF

Al-Bass Archaeological Site

LAU Lebanese American University | Louis Cardahi Foundation











ITINERARY 6 – DAY 4: Maghdouche – Sarafand – Tyre – Umm Al-Amad *(upon availability)*

TYRE

Visits

- Two main archeological sites – Al-Bass and Al-Mina – are testimony to its historical significance:
  - Al-Bass – panoramic view
  - Monuments of Tyre – panoramic view
  - Monumental Archway – panoramic view
  - Hypodrome of Tyre – panoramic view
- The Phoenician Museum

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Necropolis dating back to the Roman Period



Hippodrome from Al-Bass Site

© LAU-LCF

Roman Road in Al-Mina Site

UMM AL-AMAD

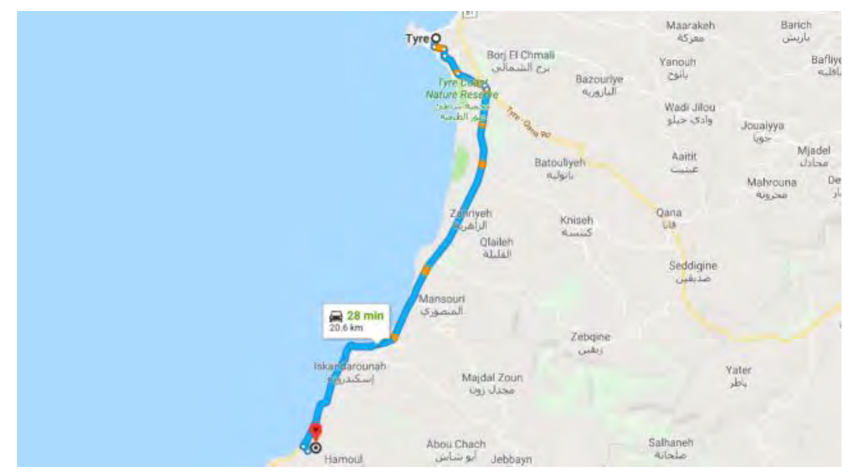
UMM AL-AMAD as a Phoenician city encompasses layers of tangible Greek civilization artifacts witnessed by (archeological findings) at the eastern shoulder of the Naqoura Sea- south Lebanon. Umm Al-Amad was discovered by a French explorer in 1772, though the first excavations didn't take place until 1861. The city of more than 60,000 square meters still bears witness to an important historical period and tells of architectural art and precision in engraving and sculpture with tools dating back to the Iron Age, which was named after the discovery of iron nearly 3,000 years ago. Umm Al-Amad's two temples were built roughly between 287 and 222 B.C.



Map of Umm Al-Amad



Location of Umm Al-Amad



Road map from Tyre to Umm Al-Amad

Phoenicians' Ruins








UMM AL-AMAD

Visits

- Encompasses layers of tangible Greek civilization artifacts: the city was a religious center for a Phoenician cult, especially that of the Phoenician God Baal Hamon, whose memory lives on in a nearby valley known as Wadi Hamol (the Valley of Hamol). The site still contains the remains of two important temples, as well as other buildings, dating back to the second century and third century B.C., and represents the last of the Phoenician culture under the rule of the Greeks. Several steles bearing Phoenician inscriptions were discovered on the site, and an important sundial stone





Remains of Phoenicians' Traces

© LAU-LCF








ITINERARY 7 – *Jabal Moussa Route*

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Akoura/Laqlouq

Souaneh

Yanouh

Yahchouch

Afqa

Mchati

Jounieh

Ghineh

Itinerary 7 is composed of 1 day route, starting from Jounieh and ending in Mchati.

Several places to visit passing by Ghineh – Yahchouch – Souaneh – Yanouh – Akoura/Laqlouq and Afqa, such as:

- Old souks
- Religious landmarks
- Natural views
- Ruins
- Temples
- Waterfalls

Jabal Moussa, *"Magical Mystery Tour – Adonis Tour"* (video)

ITINERARY 7	Jounieh – Ghineh – Yahchouch – Souaneh – Yanouh – Akoura/Laqlouq – Afqa – Mchati










JOUNIEH

- **JOUNIEH**, during the Phoenician period, the bay of Jounieh was an important winter shelter for ships sailing from the south to Byblos; hence, its name Palaebyblus (literary before Byblos). It is mentioned in the geography described in Strabo.
  The Geography of Strabo by Strabo

- **Jounieh panoramic views:**
  - The bay of Jounieh
  - The bay of Jounieh as seen from the sea
  - The Old Souk
  - The Sea Road

- General video about Jounieh



Panoramic views & the video are © DiscoverLebanon



Map of Jounieh



Location of Jounieh



Jounieh Bay

© DiscoverLebanon

Jounieh Old Souk

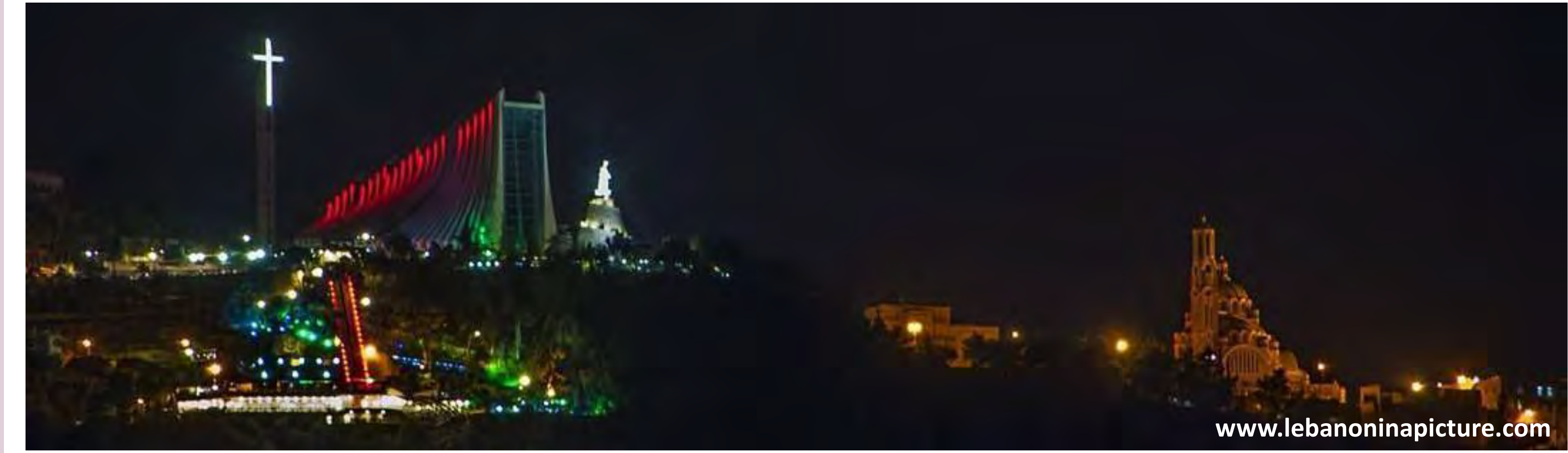
JOUNIEH

Visits

- The Phoenicians' Museum: The Municipality of Jounieh, as active member of the Phoenicians' Route, donated a historical building in the old souk of Jounieh that will be transformed into a Phoenicians' Route Museum. It is a project in process.
- Important winter shelter for ships sailing from the south to Byblos.
- St. Georges Garden
- St. Savior Orthodox Convent (Phoenician temple).
- Archaeological Museum of USEK.
- Jeita Grotto.
  Jeita Grotto panoramic views:
  - Lower cave (1)
  - Upper cave (1 – 2 – 3)
- Ancient Lycus River (Nahr El-Kalb).
- Harissa panoramic views:
  - Harissa interior view of the cathedral
  - Harissa outdoor views (1 – 2)



St. Georges Garden



Harissa and St. Paul Cathedral at Night

GHINEH

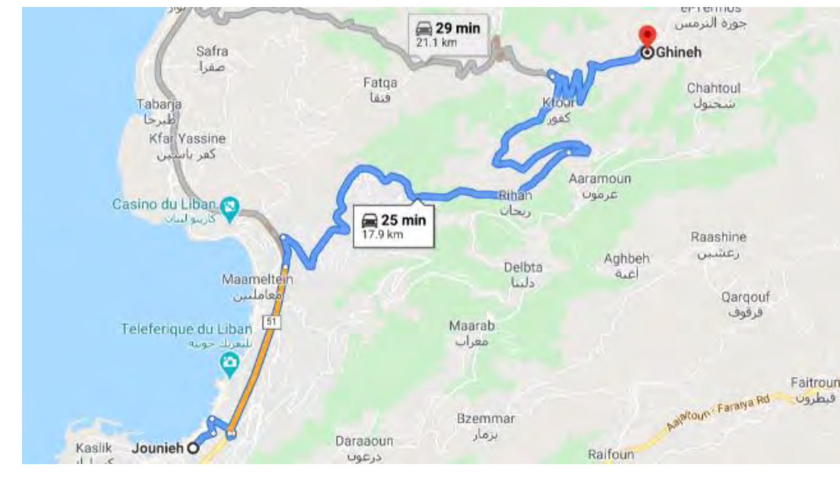
The name **GHINEH** is of Aramaic origin, from a root meaning a reserve or land which is protected or enclosed. There are ancient remains indicating that it could indicate a certain funeral vault covered by a huge mass of rocks, with traces of a tomb. It must be said that the whole region of Ghineh is rich in antiquities of considerable importance, going back to the Phoenicians, the Romans and the Byzantines. Being famous by its large rock with the drawings of the Phoenician gods Adonis and Astarte.

Among the neighboring rocks first the Phoenicians and then the Romans dug a great many cellars. One may see a massive boulder on which there is a carved bas-relief which made Renan think of the legend of Adonis who was attacked by a great wild boar.



Map of Ghineh

Location of Ghineh



Road map from Jounieh to Ghineh




Rock carved of Adonis attacked by a great wild boar



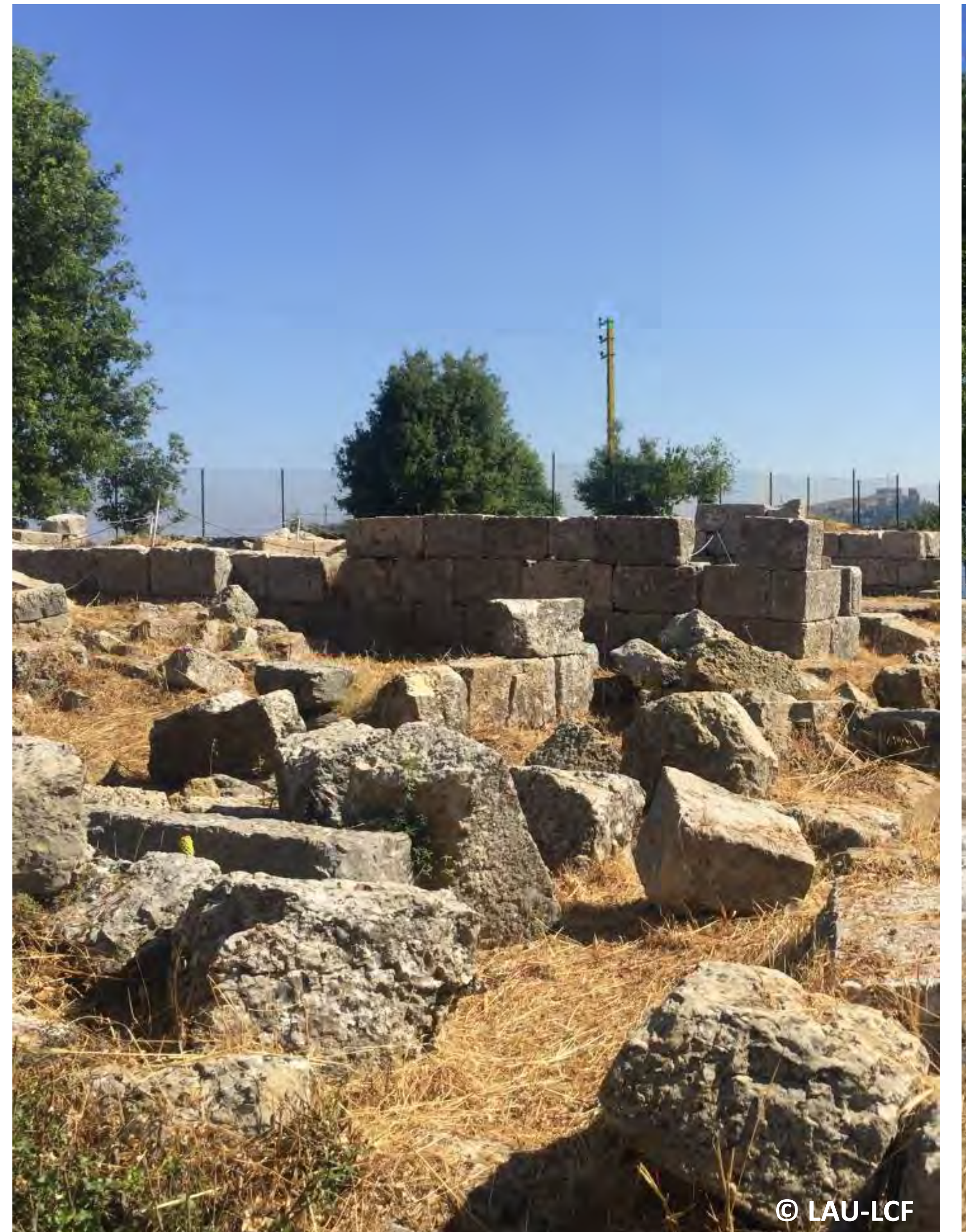
Adonis Rock Inscription

GHINEH

Visits

- Byzantine Church – panoramic view
- Adonis and Astarte rock – panoramic view

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon





Byzantine Church

YAHCHOUCH

Syriac origin, "Yeh Hoshusho" meaning "the suffering god", in reference to the god Adonis wounded in Nahr-Ibrahim river.

The visit of the village of **YAHCHOUCH** is thrilling because of grandiose canyon landscapes, vertiginous pine forests and scrubland hung on steep slopes. Yahchouch is one of the seven villages that surround Jabal Moussa Nature Reserve and is therefore part of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserves network. At 930m above sea level stands Saint Georges convent, built in the 14th century, with a bird's eye view of the village.



Map of yahchouch



Location of Yahchouch



Road map from Ghineh to Yahchouch

A Small Hidden Lake Near Yahchouch

YAHCHOUCH

Visits

- Chouwein lake
- St. George convent
- Jabal Moussa's plant nurseries where wild, native plants are grown from seeds collected from the Biosphere Reserve.
- Jabal Moussa Biosphere reserve (JMBS) presents a rich cultural and natural heritage. It is home to at least 727 flora species. It is also a Global Important Bird Area (IBA) – panoramic view



Jabal Moussa's plant nurseries




Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserve













SOUANEH

"The village of Al-Mashnaka is located on the northern bank of the "Adon" valley, 48km from Beirut with an altitude of 1050m above sea level, where the middle road runs between Jbeil and Afqa. The name Mashnaka is derived from the Syriac word "Mashnaqta" which means "the place of torment and grieve".

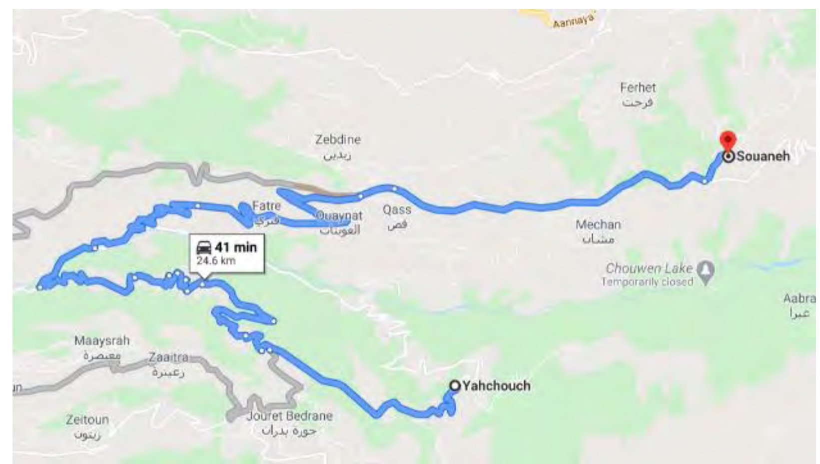
By Reem Abbani



Map of Souaneh



Location of Souaneh



Road map from Yahchouch to Souaneh

Mashnaqa Roman Temple

SOUANEH

Visits

"This place was considered one of the most important stations of the Adonian rituals, where the Phoenicians engraved seven monuments representing scenes from the legend of "Adon and Astarte". The carvings are surmounted by a rocky surface, in which huge sarcophagi are carved in rectangular forms with conical lids.

These carvings and sarcophagi are an appendix of a square-shaped religious shrine that was a monument with no visible entrance, colonnaded by sixteen columns with Doric capitals. There is a fence that used to surround the shrine with a length of 95m by a width of 50m. If you walk to the southern side of this monument you will overlook a marvellous image of the valley".

By Reem Abbani

Panoramic view of the temple.

Mashnaqa Roman Temple











YANOUH

YANOUH, once a Phoenician center, is half-way between Byblos (Jbeil) and Heliopolis (Baalbek). Its Phoenician temple is a monument to the same religion as that of Apheca, but the later Roman temple was dedicated to Diana, the Roman goddess of the hunt and daughter of the god Jupiter.

General view of the village – [panoramic view]

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Map of Yanouh

[Location of Yanouh]

[Road map from Souaneh to Yanouh]

© DiscoverLebanon

General view of the Village

YANOUH

Visits

Roman Temple – panoramic view

During the second century a small roman temple was built in the southern sanctuary and at the same period the northern sanctuary with its big temple was erected.

The big Roman Temple converted into a church and a newly built Chapel situated at the northern side. Many other chapels were built in the neighborhood.

The two roman temples were built of blue limestone blocks from which the name "Saint Georges the Blue" was given to the big temple turned into a church.

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon

Yanouh Roman Temple

AKOURA/LAQLOUQ

AKOURA is a mountainous village in the Byblos District. Aqoura has an average elevation of 1,600 meters above sea level.

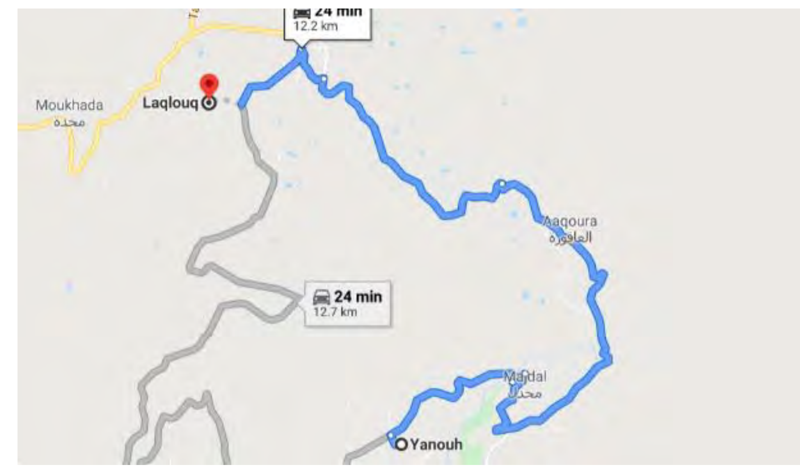
The village of Aqoura is known by the famous mountain chains surrounding and protecting it. These mountains have offered refuge for the citizens of Aqoura during the different wars in Lebanon and the region.

Maronites emerged from Aqoura in the fourth century when Saint Maroun's disciple Ibrahim El-Korchy started preaching and converting pagans to the Christian faith in the Aqoura area. The carved stone Saint Peter and Paul church in Aqoura is by far the oldest existing church in Lebanon and one of the oldest in the world. It was converted in the 4th century from a tomb place to the priests of the temple of Ashtarout in Afqa to a church.



Map of Akoura/Laqlouq

Location of AKoura/Laqlouq



Road map from Yanouh to Akoura/Laqlouq

© DiscoverLebanon

Laqlouq Mountains

AKOURA/LAQLOUQ

Visits:

- Laqlouq Saydel El-Arn – panoramic view
- Mountain of laqlouq (winter) – panoramic view
- Rouweiss Grotto in Akoura – panoramic view
- Akoura village and Virgin Mary – panoramic view
- Laqlouq lakes: the lake area is breathtaking artificial lake with a Lebanese traditional house in the background in addition to trees that garner the scene.

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon

© DiscoverLebanon

Akoura Lakes








AFQA

AFQA, Known in ancient times as *Apheca* or *Afeka*, located in the mountains of Lebanon, aligned centrally between Baalbek and Byblos.

It is the site of one of the finest waterfalls in the mountains of the Middle East, which feeds into the Adonis River (known today as Abraham River or Nahr Ibrahim in Arabic), and forms Lake Yammoune, with which it is also associated by legend.

In Greek mythology Adonis was born and died at the foot of the falls in Afqa. The ruins of the celebrated temple of Aphrodite.

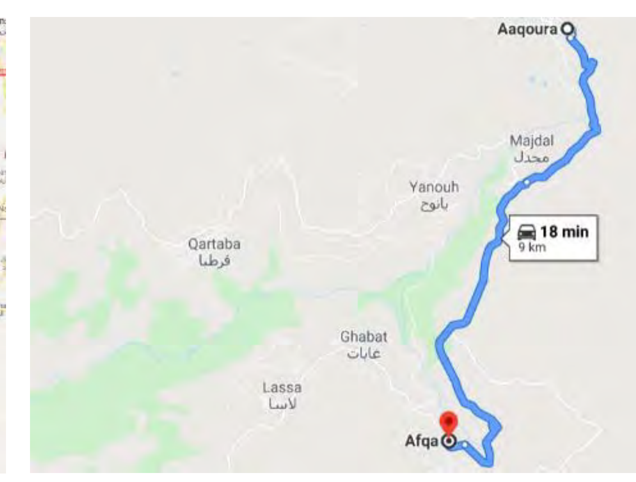
Panoramic view of Afqa waterfall.

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Map of Afqa

Location of Afqa



Road map from Akoura/Laqlouq to Afqa

www.lebanoninapicture.com

Afqa Waterfall

AFQA

Visits

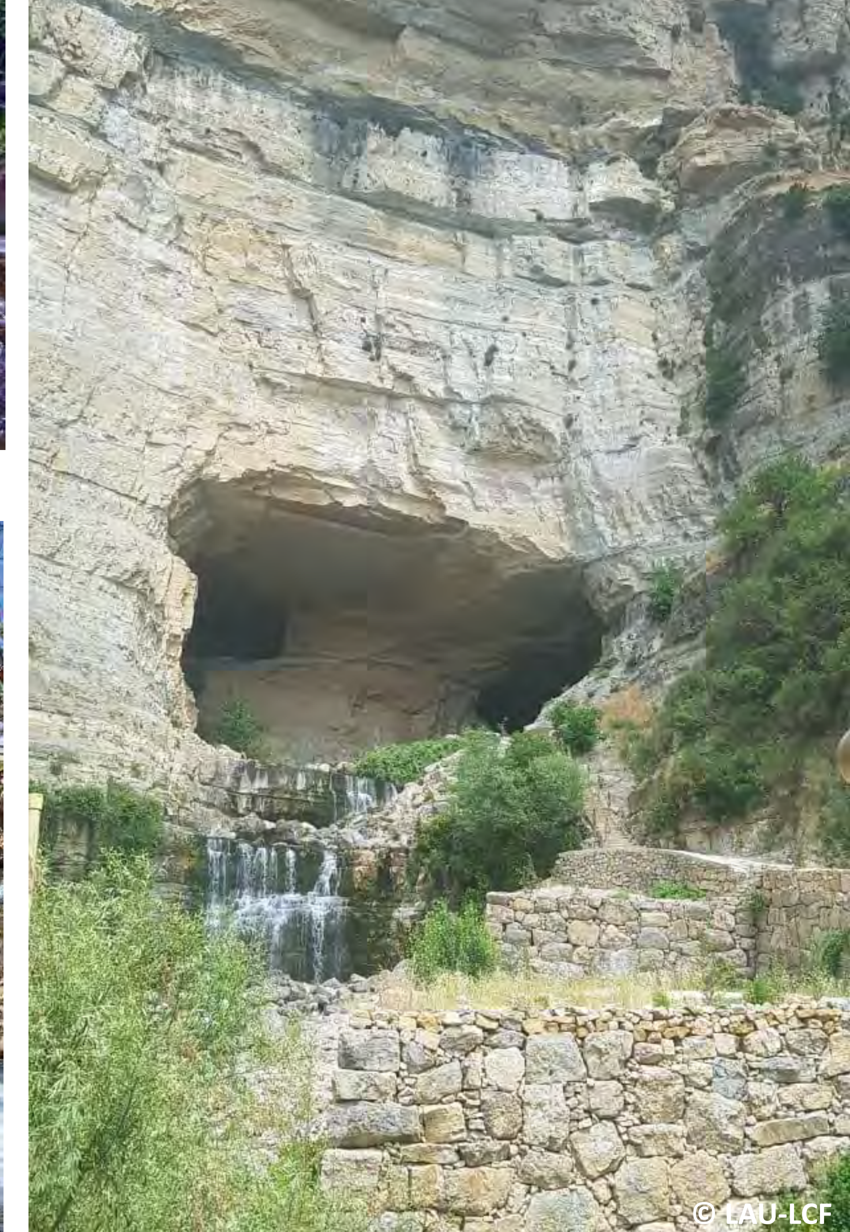
- A site of one of the finest waterfalls in the mountains of the Middle East.
- Ancient ruined walls of a temple once dedicated to Venus, or Aphrodite, her Greek counterpart.
- Afqa grotto



The Waterfall



The Waterfall from the Upper Level



Afqa Grotto

MCHATI

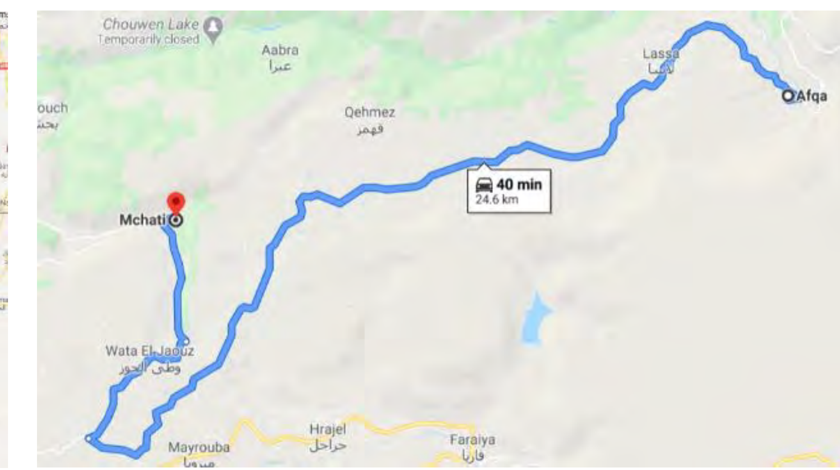
The town of **MCHATI**, where the first High Mountain Phoenician Center is to be established (not finished yet).



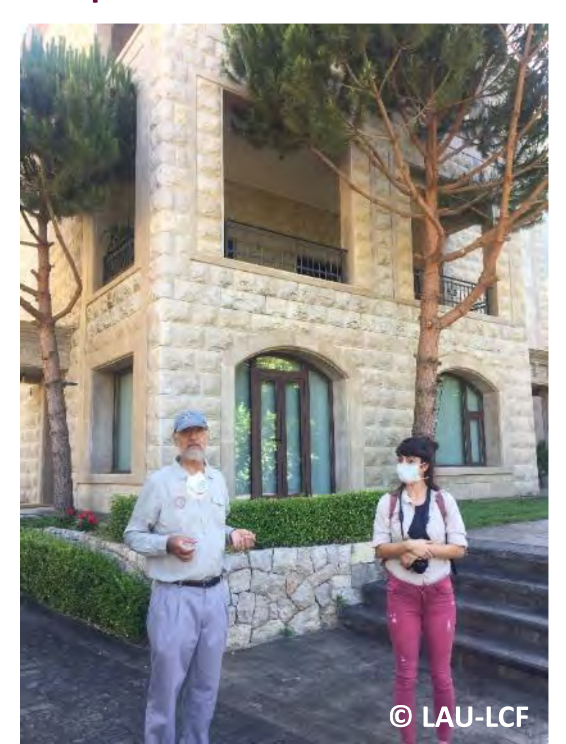
Map of Mchati



Location of Mchati



Road map from Afqa to Mchati



Phoenician Center



Mezza and Arak at Hoda's guesthouse in the town of Mchati








MCHATI

Visits

- High-Mountain Phoenician Center:

The center will allow the visitor to explore centuries of sustainable interaction between man and nature, in the legendary Adonis Valley and Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserve. As part of CROSS-DEV Project.

Phoenician Center

Phoenicians' Route Lebanon



FROM LEBANON TO CYPRUS–GREECE

Riding the Phoenician Wave

The UNWTO, the Council of Europe (EPA-EICR) and the Ministry of Tourism of Lebanon developed three pilot cultural route tourism itineraries presented on Monday 7 November 2016 at 16:00-18:00 pm, at the South Gallery room 9, WTM London, United Kingdom








ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In my capacity as the project director for **"Smart Ways Lebanon by the Phoenicians' Route"** I am honored to thank the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Lebanese municipalities on the Phoenicians' Route, LAU-Louis Cardahi Foundation Governing Board and Advisory Committee, LAU School of Architecture and Design (SArD), LAU Strategic Communications unit (STRATCOM); the Tour Guides Syndicate for Lebanon and Jabal Moussa Association for their collaboration and support during the production of this project. Also special thanks to my administrative assistant; Arch. Maria Bachour, for her creative and technical support.

Special thanks to all those who have contributed exemplary data to the production of this work especially Ms. Rana Tanissa – site owner of lebanonuntravelled.com, Mr. William Matar - site owner and director of discoverlebanon.com, and Mr. Alain Haddad - site owner of lebanoninapicture.com. Furthermore, special thanks to Dr. Antoine Khoury Harb for his valuable legendary resources and publications about Lebanon and the Phoenicians.

My sincere recognition to our LAU Students of Architecture and Urban Planning for producing the city maps as part of their action research: Camille A., Elsa A., David A. S., Joana A. A., Malak Al S., Zein A. A., Ahmad B., Sara B., Celine B. S., Marwan C., Sarah C., Hikmat C., Marie Christine D., Rand E., George E., Carole E. D., Joseph E. H., Karen E. K., Dima E. S., Nour F., Maribelle F., Nour H., Vanessa H., Sara H., Ahmad I., Youssef I., Mahasen J., Nour K., Jad K., Rasha K., Marwa M., Massa M., Hadi M., Rayan N., Jad N., Haya O., Nancy S., Khaled S., Rihab S., Farah Z. Special recognition for my colleague Dr. Marc Abou-Abdallah, author of L'histoire du royaume de Byblos à l'âge du Fer 1080-333 for his contribution to our students' research on the history of the Phoenicians; in collaboration with Ms. Juliana Najem during her Urban Planning coursework.

Special thanks to our national and international partners for their unlimited support: Italy, Spain, France, Lebanon, Tunisia, Greece, Croatia, Malta, Cyprus, Governorate of Jericho, and the scientific committee of the Phoenicians' Route.

Those who may wish to explore Smart Ways Lebanon may contact the Tour Guides Syndicate for Lebanon @tourguideslb to recommend a specific guide for your itinerary of choice.

Dr. Rachid Chamoun, Director, LAU-Louis Cardahi Foundation
Honorary President of the Confederation of the Phoenicians' Route.

January 01, 2022